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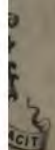
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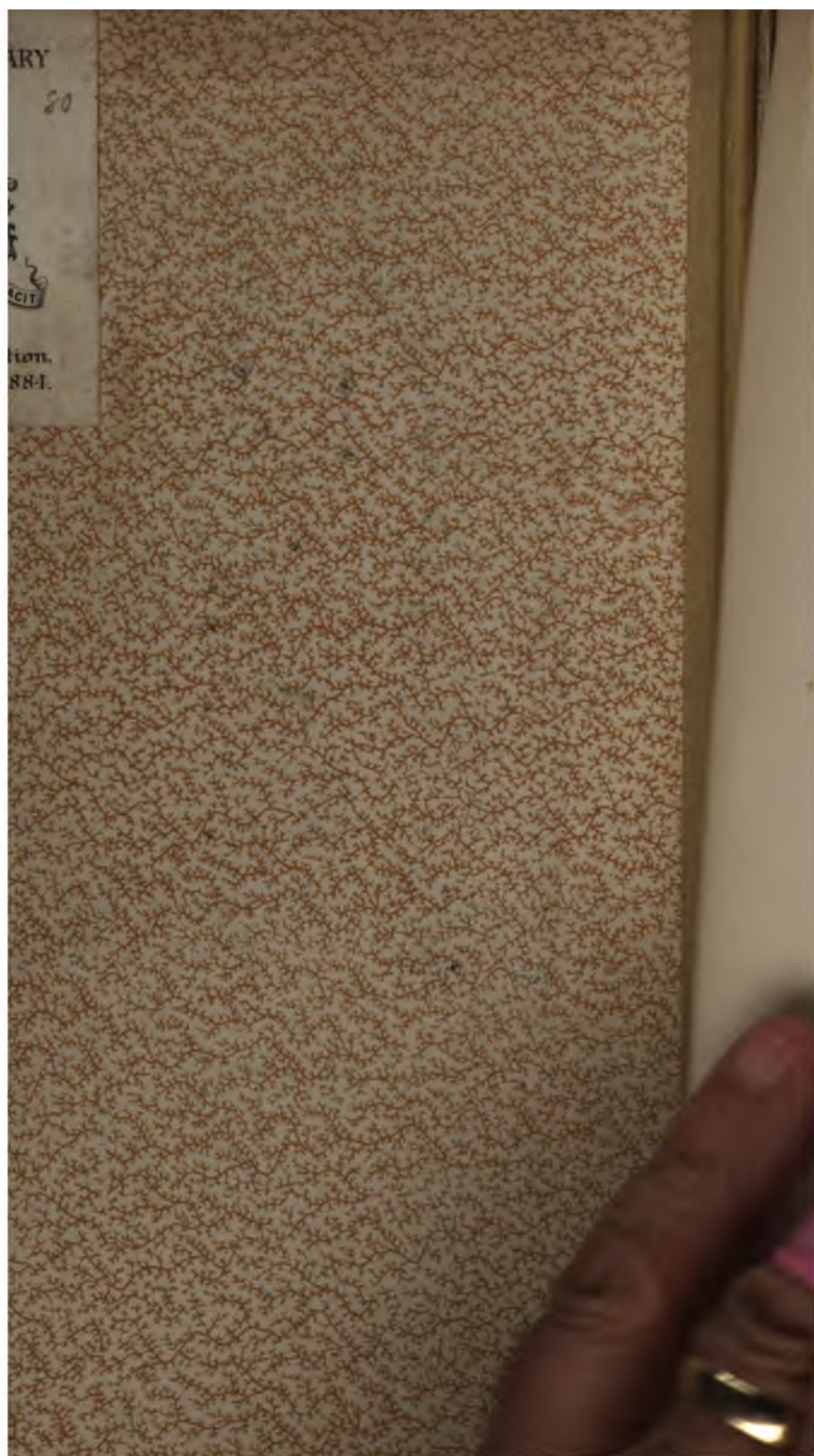
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THE
NEWGATE CALENDAR;

COMPRISING
INTERESTING MEMOIRS
OF
THE MOST NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS
WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF OUTRAGES ON
The Laws of England
SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY;

WITH
OCCASIONAL ANECDOTES AND OBSERVATIONS,
SPEECHES, CONFESSIONS, AND LAST EXCLAMATIONS OF SUFFERERS.

BY
ANDREW KNAPP AND WILLIAM BALDWIN,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.



View of Newgate.

VOL. I.

London:
J. ROBINS AND CO. IVY LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1824.

ASTORIN NEW-YORK



PREFACE.

THE penal laws of the British empire are, by foreign writers, charged with being too sanguinary in the cases of lesser offences. They hold that the punishment of death ought to be inflicted only for crimes of the highest magnitude; and philanthropists of our own nation have accorded with their opinion. Such persons as have had no opportunity of inquiring into the subject will hardly credit the assertion that there are above one hundred and sixty offences punished by death, or, as it is denominated, without benefit of clergy. The multiplicity of punishments, it is argued, in many instances defeat their own ends; for the object is alone the prevention of crimes.

The Roman empire never flourished so much as during the era of the Portian law, which abrogated the punishment of death; and it fell soon after the revival of the utmost severity of its penal laws. But Rome was not a nation of commerce, or it never could, under such an abrogation, have so long remained the mistress of Europe. In the present state of society it has become indispensably necessary that offences which, in their nature, are highly injurious to the community, and where no precept will avail, should be punished with the forfeiture of life: but these dreadful examples should be exhibited as seldom as possible; for while, on the one hand, such punishment often proves inadequate to its intended effect, by not being carried into execution; so, on the other, by being often repeated, the minds of the multitude are rendered callous to the dreadful example.

The punishment awaiting the crime of murder, from the earliest ages of civilized nations, has been the same as that inflicted by the laws of the British empire, varying alone in the mode of putting the sentence into execution. We find the murderer punished by death in the ancient laws of the Jews, the Romans, and the Athenians; in nations of heathens and idolaters. The Persians, worshipping the sun as their deity, press murderers to death between two stones. Throughout the Chinese empire, and the vast dominions of the East, they are beheaded; a death in England esteemed the least dishonourable, but there considered the most ignominious. Mahometans impale them alive, where they long writhe in

agony before death comes to their relief. In Roman Catholic countries the murderer expiated his crime upon the rack.

Several writers on crimes and punishments deny the right of man to take away life, given to us by God alone; but a crime of the dreadful nature of that now before us, however sanguinary they may find our laws in regard to lesser offences, unquestionably calls loudly for death. 'Whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed,' saith Holy Writ; but with the life of the murderer should the crime be fully expiated? The English law on this head goes still further: the effects of the murderer revert to the State—thus, as it were, carrying punishment beyond the grave, and involving in its consequences the utter ruin of many a virtuous widow and innocent children, who had looked up alone to it for support. Yet we may be thankful for laws, the dread of which affords us such ample security for our lives and property, and which we find administered with rigorous impartiality, awarding the same punishment for the same offence, whether the culprit be rich or poor, humble in life or exalted in rank. In proof of this we need only refer our readers to the cases of Laurence Earl Ferrers, Doctor Dodd, the Perreaus, Ryland, and many others, whose lives are recorded in these pages.

It is the opinion of an able commentator on our criminal laws that punishment should succeed the crime as immediately as possible, if we intend that, in the rude minds of the multitude, the picture of the crime shall instantly awaken the attendant idea of punishment: delaying which, serves only to separate these two ideas; and thus affects the minds of the spectators rather as a terrible sight than the necessary consequences of a crime. The horror should contribute to heighten the idea of the punishment.

Next to the necessary example of punishment to offenders is to record examples, in order that such as are unhappily moved with the sordid passion of acquiring wealth by violence, or stimulated by the heinous sin of revenge to shed the blood of a fellow-creature, may have before them a picture of the torment of mind and bodily sufferings of such offenders. In this light *THE NEWGATE CALENDAR* must prove highly acceptable to all ranks and conditions of men; for we shall find, in the course of these volumes, that crime has always been followed by punishment; and that, in many instances, the most artful secrecy could not *screen the offenders from detection, nor the utmost ingenuity shield them from the strong arm of impartial justice.*

NEWGATE CALENDAR,

AND

Criminal Recorder.



The Rev. Thomas Hunter murdering his two Pupils.

THE REV. THOMAS HUNTER,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF TWO CHILDREN, SONS OF MR. GORDON.

THE criminal recorder has too often to detail the atrocity of ambition, the malignity of revenge, and the desperation of jealousy; but the perpetrators are generally confined to the abandoned and irreligious—the illiterate and intemperate. Their follies or former crimes account in some measure for their delinquency, and we lament their want of virtue and education; but, when we meet in the criminal catalogue with a culprit like the present—a man of education and a minister of the Gospel—guilty of a premeditated murder!—the murder

of his own pupils, the sons of his benefactor!—the soul recoils with horror, and we shudder at the want of religious principle evinced in the deed; for this criminal subsequently avowed himself an Atheist.

The Rev. Thomas Hunter was born in the county of Fife, in Scotland, and was the son of a rich farmer, who sent him to the University of St. Andrew for education. When he had acquired a sufficient share of classical learning he was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts, and began to prosecute his studies in divinity with no small de-

gree of success. Several of the younger clergymen act as tutors to wealthy and distinguished families till a proper period arrives for their entering into orders, which they never do till they obtain a benefice. While in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains; and in this station Hunter lived about two years in the house of Mr. Gordon, a very eminent merchant, and one of the bailies of Edinburgh, which is a rank equal to that of alderman of London.

Mr. Gordon's family consisted of himself, his lady, two sons, and a daughter, and a young woman who attended Mrs. Gordon and her daughter; the malefactor in question, some clerks, and menial servants. To the care of Hunter was committed the education of the two sons; and, for a considerable time, he discharged his duty in a manner highly satisfactory to the parents, who considered him as a youth of superior genius and great goodness of heart. Unfortunately, a connexion took place between Hunter and the young woman, which soon increased to a criminal degree, and was maintained, for a considerable time, without the knowledge of the family. One day, however, when Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were on a visit, Hunter and this girl met in their chamber, as usual; but, having been so incautious as not to make their door fast, the children went into the room, and found them in such a situation as could not admit of any doubt of the nature of their intercourse. No suspicion was entertained that these children would mention to their parents what had happened, the eldest boy being not quite ten years of age; but, when the children were at supper with their parents, they disclosed so much as left no room to doubt of what had passed. Hereupon the female scr-

vant was directed to quit the house on the following day; but Hunter was continued in the family, after making a proper apology for the crime of which he had been guilty, attributing it to the thoughtlessness of youth, and promising never to offend in the same way again.

From this period he entertained the most inveterate hatred to all the children, on whom he determined, in his own mind, to wreak the most diabolical vengeance. Nothing less than murder was his intention; but it was a considerable time after he had formed this horrid plan before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution. Whenever it was a fine day he was accustomed to walk in the fields, with his pupils, for an hour before dinner; and, in these excursions, the young lady generally attended her brothers. At the period immediately preceding the commission of the fatal act, Mr. Gordon and his family were at their country retreat, very near Edinburgh; and, having received an invitation to dine in that city, he and his lady proposed to go thither about the time that Hunter usually took his noon-tide walk with the children. Mrs. Gordon was very anxious for all the children to accompany them on this visit; but this was strenuously opposed by her husband, who would consent that only the little girl should attend them.

By this circumstance Hunter's intention of murdering all the three children was frustrated; but he held the resolution of destroying the boys, while they were yet in his power. With this view he took them into the fields, and sat down, as if to repose himself on the grass, and was preparing his knife to put a period to the lives of the children at the very moment they were busied in catching butterflies, and ga-

thering wild flowers. Having sharpened his knife, he called the lads to him; and, when he had reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother with the scene to which they had been witnesses, said that he would immediately put them to death. Terrified by this threat, the children ran from him; but he immediately followed, and brought them back. He then placed his knee on the body of the one, while he cut the throat of the other with his penknife; and then treated the second in the same inhuman manner.

These horrid murders were committed in August, 1700, within half a mile of the castle of Edinburgh; and, as the deed was perpetrated in the middle of the day, and in the open fields, it would have been very wonderful indeed if the murderer had not been immediately taken into custody. At the very time a gentleman was walking on the Castle-hill of Edinburgh, who had a tolerably perfect view of what passed. Alarmed by the incident, he called some people, who ran with him to the place where the children were lying dead. Hunter now advanced towards a river, with a view to drown himself. Those who pursued came up with him just as he reached the brink of the river; and, his person being immediately known to them, a messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were at that moment going to dinner with their friend, to inform them of the horrid murder of their sons. Language is too weak to describe the effects resulting from the communication of this dreadful news: the astonishment of the afflicted father, the agony of the frantic mother, may possibly be conceived, though it cannot be described.

According to an old Scottish law, it was decreed that 'if a murderer

should be taken with the blood of the murdered person on his clothes, he should be prosecuted in the sheriff's court, and executed within three days after the commission of the fact.' It was not common to execute this sentence with rigour; but this offender's crime was of so aggravated a nature, that it was not thought proper to remit any thing of the utmost severity of the law. The prisoner was, therefore, committed to gaol, and chained down to the floor all night; and, on the following day, the sheriff issued his precept for the jury to meet: and, in consequence of their verdict, Hunter was brought to his trial, when he pleaded guilty, and added to the offence he had already committed the horrid crime of declaring that he lamented only the not having murdered Mr. Gordon's daughter as well as his sons.

The sheriff now passed sentence on the convict, which was to the following purpose: that, 'on the succeeding day, he should be executed on a gibbet, erected for that purpose, on the spot where he had committed the murders; but that, previous to his execution, his right hand should be cut off near the wrist; that then he should be drawn up to the gibbet by a rope; and, when he was dead, hung in chains between Edinburgh and Leith: the knife with which he committed the murders being stuck thro' his hand, which should be advanced over his head, and fixed therewith to the top of the gibbet. Mr. Hunter was executed, in strict conformity to the above sentence, on the 22d of August, 1700: but Mr. Gordon soon afterwards petitioned the sheriff that the body might be removed to a more distant spot, as its hanging on the side of the highway, through which he frequently passed, tended to re-excite his grief for the occasion.

that had first given rise to it. This requisition was immediately complied with, and, in a few days, the body was removed to the skirts of a small village, near Edinburgh, named Broughton.

It is equally true, and horrid to relate, that, at the place of execution, Hunter closed his life with the following shocking declaration:—

There is no God—I do not believe there is any; or, if there is, I hold him in defiance.' Yet this infidel had been regarded as a minister of the Gospel!

A few serious and important reflections will naturally occur to the mind on perusing this melancholy narrative. Mr. Hunter was educated in a manner greatly superior to the vulgar; and he was of a profession that ought to have set an example of virtue, instead of a pattern of vice: yet neither his education nor profession could actuate as preventive remedies against a crime the most abhorrent to all the feelings of humanity.

His first offence, great as it was, could be considered as no other than a prologue to the dismal tragedy that ensued; a tragedy that was attended with almost every possible circumstance of aggravation; for Mr. and Mrs. Gordon had done nothing to him that could tempt him to any thoughts of revenge; and the children were too young to have offended him, even in intention: they simply mentioned to their parents a circumstance that to them appeared somewhat extraordinary; and which, Mr. Hunter's character

and situation considered, was indeed of a very extraordinary nature: yet in revenge of this supposed affront did he resolve to imbrue his hands in the blood of the unoffending innocents.

If we reflect on the conduct of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon in discharging the young woman who was guilty of a violation of the laws of decency, and retaining in their family the principal offender, we must own that their partiality was ill founded: this, however, must be ascribed to the veneration in which clergymen are universally held, and the particular regard that was shown towards them in Scotland at the commencement of the last century. Still, however, it is an aggravation of Hunter's crime, who ought to have been grateful in proportion as he was favoured.

It is a shocking part of Hunter's story that he was one of a society of abandoned young fellows, who occasionally assembled to ridicule the scriptures, and make a mockery of the being and attributes of God! Is it then to be wondered that this wretch fell an example of the exemplary justice of Divine Providence? Perhaps a fate no less dreadful attended many of his companions: but, their histories have not reached our hands.

There is something so indescribably shocking in denying the existence of that God 'in whom we live, move, and have our being,' that it is amazing any man who feels that he did not create himself can be an Atheist.

MICHAEL VAN BERGHEN, CATHERINE VAN BERGHEN, AND DROMELIUS,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF THEIR GUEST, MR. OLIVER NORRIS.

These criminals were natives of
and, who, having settled in
and, kept a public house in

East Smithfield in 1700, and where
Geraldus Dromelius acted as their
servant. Mr. Norris was a country

gentleman, who lodged at an inn near Aldgate, and who went into the house of Van Berghen about eight o'clock in the evening, and continued to drink there till about eleven. Finding himself rather intoxicated, he desired the maid servant to call a coach to carry him home. As she was going to do so her mistress whispered her, and bid her return in a little time, and say that a coach was not to be procured. These directions being observed, Norris, on the maid's return, resolved to go without a coach, and accordingly took his leave of the family; but he had not gone far before he discovered that he had been robbed of a purse containing a sum of money; whereupon he returned, and charged Van Berghen and his wife with having been guilty of the robbery. This they positively denied, and threatened to turn him out of the house; but he refused to go, and resolutely went into a room where the cloth was laid for supper.

At this time Dromelius entered the room, and, threatening Mr. Norris in a cavalier manner, the latter resented the insult, and at length a quarrel ensued. At this juncture Van Berghen seized a poker, with which he fractured Mr. Norris's skull, and in the mean time Dromelius stabbed him in different parts of the body, Mrs. Van Berghen being present during the perpetration of the horrid act. When Mr. Norris was dead they stripped him of his coat, waistcoat, hat, wig, &c. and then Van Berghen and Dromelius carried the body, and threw it into a ditch which communicated with the Thames; and in the mean time Mrs. Van Berghen washed the

blood of the deceased from the floor of the room. The clothes, which had been stripped from the deceased, were put up in a hamper, and committed to the care of Dromelius, who took a boat, and carried them over to Rotherhithe, where he employed the waterman to carry the hamper to lodgings which he had taken, and in which he proposed to remain until he could find a favorable opportunity of embarking for Holland.

The next morning, at low water, the body of a man was found, and several of the neighbours went to take a view of it, and endeavoured to try if they could trace any blood to the place where the murder might have been committed; but, not succeeding in this, some of them, who were up at a very early hour, recollected that they had seen Van Berghen and Dromelius coming almost from the spot where the body was found, and remarked that a light had been carried backwards and forwards in Van Berghen's house. Upon this the house was searched; but no discovery was made, except that a little blood was found behind the door of a room, which appeared to have been lately mopped. Inquiry was made after Dromelius, but Van Berghen and his wife would give no other account than he had left their service: on which they were taken into custody, with the servant maid, who was the principal evidence against them. At this time the waterman who had carried Dromelius to Rotherhithe, and who knew him very well, appeared, and he was likewise taken into custody. The prisoners were tried by a jury of half Englishmen and half foreigners,* to whom all the circum-

* This is an indulgence of the laws of England to accused foreigners, which no other country affords in such cases. Wherever six men can be found of the nation of the prisoner, they are impanelled with the same number of Englishmen. During the American war, in the year 1778, when the Royal Westminster Regiment of Middlesex militia were

stances above mentioned appeared so striking, that they did not hesitate to find the prisoners guilty; and accordingly they received sentence of death.

After condemnation, and a short time before the day of execution, Dromelius assured the Ordinary of Newgate that the murder was committed by himself, and that it was preceded and followed by these circumstances, viz.:—Mr. Norris being very much in liquor, and desirous of going to his inn, Mr. Van Berghen directed him to attend him thither: soon after they left the house, Norris went into a broken building, where, using opprobrious language to Dromelius, and attempting to draw his sword, he wrested it from his hand, and stabbed him with it in several places: that this being done, Norris groaned very much; and Dromelius hearing a watchman coming, and fearing a discovery, drew a knife, cut his throat, and thereby put an end to his life. In answer to this it was said, that the story was altogether improbable; for if Mr. Norris had been killed in the manner above mentioned, some blood would have been found on the spot, and there would have been holes in his clothes from the stabbing; neither of which was the case. Still, however, Dromelius persisted in his declaration, with a view to save the life of his mistress, with whom he was thought to have an improper connexion.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Berghen were attended at the place of execution by some divines of their own country, as well as an English clergyman; and desired the prayers of

them all. Mr. Van Berghen, unable to speak intelligibly in English, conversed in Latin; from which it may be inferred that he had been educated in a style superior to the rank of life which he had lately held. He said that the murder was not committed in his house, and that he knew no more of it than that Dromelius came to him while he lay in bed, informed him that he had wounded the gentleman, and begged him to aid his escape; but that, when he knew Mr. Norris was murdered, he offered money to some persons to pursue the murderer: this, however, was not proved on his trial. Mrs. Van Berghen also solemnly declared that she knew nothing of the murder till after it was perpetrated, which was not in their house; that Dromelius coming into the chamber, and saying he had murdered the gentleman, she went for the hamper to hold the bloody clothes, and assisted Dromelius in his escape, a circumstance which would not be deemed criminal in her country. This was, however, an artful plea; for, in Holland, accessories, before or after the fact, are accounted as principals.

Dromelius, when at the place of execution, persisted in his former tale; but desired the prayers of the surrounding multitude, whom he warned to beware of the indulgence of violent passions, to which he then fell an untimely sacrifice. They suffered near the Hartshorn brewhouse, East Smithfield, being the nearest convenient spot to the place where the murder was committed, on the 10th of July, in the year 1700. The bodies of the men were hung in

on guard at Porton prison, near Gosport, over French and American prisoners, some of the latter, proving riotous, were fired upon by the guard, and two or three thereby killed. The coroner of the county summoned a jury, and swore in one half countrymen of the deceased, though still prisoners. The consequence was, that for near two days a verdict could not be agreed upon, the Americans persisting in its being brought in wilful murder. At length they compromised the affair for manslaughter; and thus was this benighted manner of proceeding exposed to be abused by men charged with rebellion.

chains, between Bow and Mile-end; but the woman was buried.

The denial by this unhappy couple of the crime, at the very moment their souls must appear before the Almighty, and after such clear proof, on which a jury, one half composed of their own countrymen, without hesitation found them guilty, greatly adds to their turpitude.

From the above narrative an important lesson may be learnt, particularly by our country readers. Mr. Norris was a country gentleman: the house kept by Van Berghen was, at the best, of very doubtful fame. Country gentlemen, when called to London on business, should be particularly cautious never to enter such a house. If this unhappy man had gone only where business

called him, he might have escaped the fatal catastrophe that befel him, and have long lived to bless his family and friends, and do credit to his country.

In the discovery of this murder the intervention of Providence is obvious. Every possible care was taken to conceal it; yet blood was found in the room where the murder was committed; and the thoughtlessness of Dromellius respecting the waterman contributed to lead to a ready discovery of the fact. Nothing is hid from the all-seeing eye of God. Let the righteous justice executed on the malefactors above mentioned impress on the minds of our readers the force of the sixth commandment:—‘Thou shalt do NO MURDER.’

ALEXANDER BALFOUR, CONVICTED OF MURDER.

THE next criminal that particularly calls our attention was of a noble family in Scotland, a murderer of the worst description; yet in whose fate we have an extraordinary dispensation of Providence in permitting his flight from justice, and granting him a long life after his conviction of this horrid crime; to the end, without doubt, of giving time for repentance to so great a sinner.

Alexander Balfour was born in the year 1687, at the seat of his father, Lord Burleigh, near Kinross. He was first sent for education to a village called Orwell, near the place of his birth, and thence to the University of St. Andrew's, where he pursued his studies with a diligence and success that greatly distinguished him. His father had intended to have sent him to join the army in Flanders, under the command of the Duke of Malborough, in which he

had rational expectation of his rising to preferment, as he was related to the Duke of Argyle and the Earl of Stair, who were majors-general in the army; but this scheme unhappily did not take place. Mr. Balfour, while at his father's house during a vacation at the university, became enamoured of Miss Anne Robertson, who officiated as teacher to his sisters. This young lady was possessed of considerable talents, improved by a superior education; but Lord Burleigh being apprised of the connexion between her and his son, she was discharged, and the young gentleman sent to make the tour of France and Italy. Before he went abroad, he sent the young lady a letter, informing her that, if she married before his return, he would murder her husband. Notwithstanding this threat, which she might presume had its origin in ungovernable passion, she married Mr.

When Balfour returned from his travels, his first business was to inquire for Miss Robertson, and, learning that she was married, he proceeded immediately to Inner-keithing, when he saw Mrs. Syme sitting at her window, nursing the first child of her marriage. Recollecting his former threatenings, she screamed with terror, and called to her husband to consult his safety. Mr. Syme, unconscious of offence,

paid no regard to what she said; but, in the interim, Balfour entered the school-room, and, finding the husband, shot him through the heart. The confusion consequent on this scene favoured his escape; but he was taken into custody, within a few days, at a public-house, four miles from Edinburgh; and, being brought to trial, was sentenced to be beheaded by the *maiden*,* in respect to the nobility

* Mr. Pennant gives the following account of the Maiden:—"It seems to have been confined to the limits of the forest of Hardwicke, or the eighteen towns and hamlets within its precincts. The time when this custom took place is unknown; whether Earl Warren, lord of this forest, might have established it among the sanguinary laws then in use against the invaders of the hunting rites, or whether it might not take place after the woollen manufactures at Halifax began to gain strength, is uncertain. The last is very probable; for the wild country around the town was inhabited by a lawless set, whose depredations on the cloth-tenters might soon stifle the efforts of infant industry. For the protection of trade, and for the greater terror of offenders by speedy execution, this custom seems to have been established, so as at last to receive the force of law, which was, "That if a felon be taken within the liberty of the forest of Hardwicke, with goods stolen out or within the said precincts, either hand-habend, back-berand, or confessioned, to the value of thirteen pence halfpenny, he shall, after three market-days within the town of Halifax, next after such apprehension, and being condemned, be taken to the gibbet, and there have his head cut from his body."

"The offender had always a fair trial; for as soon as he was taken he was brought to the lord's bailiff at Halifax; he was then exposed on the three markets (which here were held thrice a week), placed in the stocks, with the goods stolen on his back, or, if the theft was of the cattle kind, they were placed by him; and this was done both to strike terror into others, and to produce new informations against him. The bailiff then summoned four freeholders of each town within the forest to form a jury. The felon and prosecutors were brought face to face: the goods, the cow or horse, or whatsoever was stolen, produced. If he was found guilty, he was remanded to prison, had a week's time allowed for preparation, and then was conveyed to this spot, where his head was struck off by this machine. I should have premised, that if the criminal, either after apprehension, or in the way to execution, could escape out of the limits of the forest (part being close to the town), the bailiff had no further power over him; but if he should be caught within the precincts at any time after, he was immediately executed on his former sentence.

"This privilege was very freely used during the reign of Elizabeth; the records before that time were lost. Twenty-five suffered in her reign, and at least twelve from 1623 to 1650; after which, I believe, the privilege was no more exerted.

"This machine of death is now destroyed; but I saw one of the same kind in a room under the parliament-house in Edinburgh, where it was introduced by the Regent Morton, who took a model of it as he passed through Halifax, and at length suffered by it himself. It is in form of a painter's easel, and about ten feet high; at four feet from the bottom is the cross bar on which the felon lays his head, which is kept down by another placed above. In the inner edges of the frame are grooves; in these is placed a sharp axe, with a vast weight of lead, supported at the very summit with a peg: to that peg is fastened a cord, which the executioner cutting, the axe falls, and does the affair effectually, without suffering the unhappy criminal to undergo a repetition of strokes, as has been the case in the common method. I must add, that, if the sufferer is condemned for stealing a horse or cow, the string is tied to the beast, which, on being whipped, pulls out the peg, and becomes the executioner."

Thus we find that the guillotine of France is not an instrument of death of the invention of that country. During the Revolution, this instrument, precisely on the model of the maiden, was adopted, because it produced a death more instantaneous, and consequently less painful, than that inflicted on criminals in Britain.

of his family. The scaffold was actually erected for the purpose; but, on the preceding day, his sister went to visit him, and, being very much like him in face and stature, they changed clothes, and he made his escape from the prison. His friends having provided a servant and horses for him, at the west gate of Edinburgh, they rode to a distant village, where he changed his

clothes again, and afterwards left the kingdom. Lord Burleigh, the father, died in the reign of Queen Anne; but had first obtained a pardon for his son, who succeeded to the family title and honours, and who lived nearly fifty years after his escape, having died, in 1752, a sincere penitent for the murder he had committed.

JOHN HOLLIDAY, *alias* SIMPSON,

EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

THIS man, whose career of villainy in England was not long, had committed a variety of depredations in Flanders, where he served as a soldier under King William III. On the peace of Ryswick he received his discharge, and, with several of his confederates in acts of villainy, repaired to London, where they formed themselves into a gang of robbers, of which Holliday, under the name of Simpson, was appointed their captain.—We can trace but few particulars of the depredations they committed in London and its environs, farther than that they were alternately highwaymen and housebreakers.

In the year 1700 Holliday was indicted, in the name of Simpson, for a burglary in the house of Elizabeth Gawden, and stealing thereout two feather beds, and other articles; to which he pleaded guilty, and was, for that offence, hanged at Tyburn.

While under sentence of death, he made the following confession of the singular and daring robberies he had committed: his officers—the church—nay the king himself, were plundered by this daring villain. He said that his name was not Simpson, but Holliday, and that, during a great part of the war in the reign of King William, he was a soldier in Flanders, where he

used to take frequent opportunities of robbing the tents of the officers: and once, when the army lay before Mons, and his majesty commanded in person, Simpson happened to be one of those who were selected to guard the royal tent. On an evening when the King, accompanied by the Earl, afterwards Duke, of Marlborough, and Lord Cutts, went out to take a view of the situation of the army, Simpson, with a degree of impudence peculiar to himself, went into his majesty's tent, and stole about a thousand pounds. It was some days before this money was missed, and when the robbery was discovered, Simpson escaped all suspicion. He said he had committed more robberies than he could possibly recollect, having been a highwayman as well as a house-breaker.

He committed numerous robberies in Flanders as well as in England, and he affirmed that the gates of the city of Ghent had been twice shut up within a fortnight to prevent his escape; and that when he was taken, his arms, legs, back, and neck, were secured with irons; in which condition he was carried through the streets, that he might be seen by the crowd.

Simpson, and two of his companions, used frequently to stop and rob the Roman Catholics at

five o'clock in the morning, as they were going to mass : he repeatedly broke into the churches of Brussels, Mechlin, and Antwerp, and stole the silver plate from the altar.

This offender further acknowledged that, having killed one of his companions in a quarrel, he was apprehended, tried, and condemned for the fact, by a court-martial of officers, and sentenced to be executed on the following day, in sight of the army, which was to be drawn up to see the execution. During the night, however, he found means to escape, and took refuge in the church of St. Peter in Ghent, where the army then lay. Being thus in a place of sanctuary, he applied to the priests, who made interest with Prince Eugene; and their joint intercession with King William, who arrived in the city about four days afterwards, obtained his full pardon, and he immediately joined the army.

In a few days after he had obtained his pardon, he broke into the church, and robbed it of plate to the value of twelve hundred pounds; which he was the better enabled to do, as he was acquainted with the avenues of the church, and knew where the plate was deposited. He was apprehended on suspicion of this sacrilege; for, as a crime of this kind is seldom committed by the natives of the country, it was conjectured that it must have been perpetrated by some one, at least, of the soldiers; and information being given that two Jews had embarked in a boat on the Scheldt for Middleburgh on the day succeeding the robbery, and that Simpson had been seen in company with these Jews, this occasioned his being taken into custody; but, as no proof arose that he had sold any plate to these men, it was thought necessary to dismiss him.

GEORGE GRIFFITHS,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

THIS young man received the education of a gentleman, was articulated as clerk to an attorney of high repute, and enjoyed the utmost latitude of confidence with his master, but which a course of dissipation destroyed, and finally brought him to an untimely end. His misfortunes may prove a lesson to young gentlemen intended for the learned professions, while the danger which a young lady, his master's daughter, had, through him, nearly fallen into, will, we trust, be a caution to females against placing their affections without the sanction of their parents.

Mr. Griffiths was born at Thetford, in the county of Norfolk, and was the son of an eminent apothecary of that town. On the expiration of the term of his clerkship, he was retained by his master, on a

handsome salary, to manage his business, and he discharged his duty for a considerable time with great regularity; but unhappily becoming acquainted with some young lawyers, who possessed more money than discretion, he soon spent the little fortune which his father had bequeathed to him, and also became indebted to several of his master's employers.

During great part of Griffiths's servitude, the only daughter of his employer had been at a boarding-school at Windsor, for the advantage of education; and now returning home, her father, who was uncommonly tender of her, requested that she would take his domestic affairs under her own management.

This old gentleman being frequently from home, the business of the office was committed to the care

of Mr. Griffiths; and an intimacy soon ensued between him and the young lady, in whose company he spent all those evenings in which he had not particular engagements with his old associates. The consequence was, that their acquaintance ripened into esteem; their esteem into love. The reciprocal declaration soon took place, and the young lady considered Mr. Griffiths as the man who was to be her future husband.

Some short time after this attachment Griffiths was under the necessity of attending his master on the Norfolk circuit; and, while he was in the country, he held a constant correspondence with the young lady: but the father was totally unacquainted with all that had passed, and had not formed the least idea that his daughter had any kind of connexion with his clerk; but at length the circumstance of the affair transpired in the following manner:

The daughter having gone to Windsor for a few days, on a visit to her former acquaintance, continued to correspond with Mr. Griffiths. On a particular day, when Griffiths was not at home, it happened that a letter was brought to the office, directed to this unfortunate man; when one of the clerks, imagining that it might be of consequence, carried it to the master, at an adjacent coffee-house. It is impossible that any language should express the surprise of the old gentleman when he saw the name of his daughter subscribed to a letter, in which she acknowledged herself as the future wife of the clerk.

The father knew that Griffiths had no fortune; but he soon found that he had been master of sufficient art to prevail on the daughter to believe that he was possessed of considerable property. Hereupon he

represented to his daughter the great impropriety of her conduct; in answer to which she said that Mr. Griffiths was a man of fortune, though he had hitherto carefully concealed this circumstance from her father. However, it was not long before a discovery was made, which represented Mr. Griffiths's situation in a light equally new and contemptible.

His master, for a considerable time past, had acted as the solicitor in a capital cause depending in Chancery; but the determination respecting it had been put off, on account of Lord Somers being removed from the office of chancellor, and the great seal given in commission to Sir Nathan Wright. The solicitor had received immense sums while the cause was depending, which he had committed to the care of his clerk; but the latter, pressed for cash to supply his extravagance, purloined some of this money. At length the cause was determined, and Griffiths was called upon to account to his master for the money in his hands.

Alarmed at this sudden demand, he knew not what course to take. He was already considerably indebted to different people, and had not a friend to whom he could apply for as much money as was deficient in his accounts; but, being driven to the utmost necessity, he came to the resolution of breaking open his master's bureau, which he did while the family were asleep, and stole a considerable sum of money; but, as nothing else except money was stolen, Griffiths would very probably have escaped suspicion, had he not been tempted to a repetition of his crime.

At this time the old gentleman and his daughter went to Tunbridge; and, during their residence at that place of amusement, Grif-

Griffiths procured a key that would unlock his master's bureau, from whence again he took money to a considerable amount. On the master's return, he missed this sum; but still he did not suspect Griffiths, as the drawer was found locked: hereupon he deposited his jewels in the bureau, but locked up his money in another place.

The amour betwixt Griffiths and the young lady still continued; and they would soon have been married at the Fleet, but that a fatal circumstance now arose, which, happily for her, brought her connexion to a period.

Griffiths being, as already observed, possessed of a key that would open his master's bureau, and disposed to go out and spend a cheerful evening with his old associates, now, during their absence, opened the drawer, but was greatly disappointed in not meeting with the money that was usually left there: finding, however, jewels in its stead, he stole a diamond ring, which he carried to a jeweller, and sold for twelve pounds; and then went to spend his evening as he had intended. The old lawyer came home at ten o'clock at night, and, casually looking into his drawer, found the ring was gone; and, being enraged at this renewed robbery, he had every person in the house carefully searched; but no discovery was made.

Griffiths did not return till a late hour, and on the following day his employer told him what had happened, and requested that he would go to the several jewellers' shops, and make inquiry for the lost ring. Griffiths pretended obedience, and, when he returned, acquainted his master that all his inquiries respecting it had been ineffectual.

However, a discovery of the party who had been guilty of the robbery

was made in the following singular manner:—The jeweller who had bought the ring frequented the same coffee-house with the gentleman who had lost it, and was intimately acquainted with him, though he knew nothing of Griffiths. Now the jeweller, having carefully examined the ring after he had bought it, and therefore concluded that it had been obtained in an illegal manner, being a man who was much above the idea of having his integrity suspected, related the particulars of his purchase at the coffee-house, which the person hearing who had lost the ring, desired to have a sight of it; and, on the first inspection, knew it to be that which he had lost.

The person of Griffiths was now so exactly described by the jeweller, that there could be little doubt but that he was the thief; wherefore he was desired to go to the chambers, with a constable, and take him into custody, if he appeared to be the man who had sold the ring. As this was really the case, he was carried before a justice of the peace, and accused of the crime, which he immediately confessed; and, likewise, that he had robbed his master of money, in the manner we have already related.

Griffiths, in consequence hereof, was committed to Newgate; and, being arraigned at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty to the indictment, and sentence of death was passed on him accordingly.

As, in his situation, it was natural to suppose that he would attempt to correspond with the young lady to whom he had aspired as a wife, a proper person was employed by her father to intercept his letters; a service that was performed with such care, that not one reached her hands, though a considerable number were written.

her hands, though a considerable number were written.

When Mr. Griffiths found that he had nothing to hope from the intervention of the royal mercy, and consequently that all the views with which he had flattered himself in wedlock were vanished, he began seriously to prepare himself for that state in which persons 'neither marry, nor are given in marriage.' He very justly attributed his misfortunes to the associating with persons who were his superiors in point of circumstances, and the making an appearance which he was unable to support, in order to secure the object of his wishes. He died, a penitent, at Tyburn, the 1st of August, 1700.

More than one lesson of useful instruction may be learnt from the preceding melancholy narrative. Among the number of our young gentlemen who are sent to the inns of court, many are of considerable fortune, while others have very scanty stipends; for it is the ambition of many parents to place their children in stations in which they cannot support them with the requisite degree of credit till they are enabled to provide for themselves; and it is possible that this may be the source of many calamities. The wish to provide in a proper manner

for our children is as laudable as it is natural; but many a youth owes his ruin to his being placed in a situation above his reasonable views or expectations.

When it happens that a young gentleman whose circumstances are rather contracted is sent to one of our inns of court, instead of frequenting playhouses and taverns with those of more liberal fortune, he should study with the utmost assiduity the reverend sages of the law, by which, in a few years, he may render himself superior to those who, at the present moment, may look down on him with a degree of contempt.

With regard to the unhappy subject of this narrative, we have only to remark that a rigid perseverance in the paths of honour might have finally procured him the consummation of his wishes. On a presumption that he was enamoured of his master's daughter, the ready way to have obtained her would have been to have sought the approbation of her father; and, as he appears to have been much confided in by the old gentleman, there seems to be little doubt but that modest perseverance would have ensured his success: besides his guilt was increased in proportion to the confidence that his master reposed in him.

CAPTAIN JOHN KIDD,

EXECUTED FOR PIRACY.

PIRACY is an offence committed on the high seas, by villains who man and arm a vessel for the purpose of robbing fair traders. It is also piracy to rob a vessel lying in shore at anchor, or at a wharf. The river Thames, until the excellent establishment of a marine police, was infested by gangs of freshwater pirates, who were continually rowing about, watching the home-

ward-bound vessels; which, whenever an opportunity offered, they boarded, and stole whatever part of their cargo they could hoist into their boats. But, of late years, the shipping there, collected from every part of the habitable globe, have lain in tolerable security against such disgraceful depredations, and the introduction of the dock system has further increased this security.

Captain John Kidd was born in the town of Greenock, in Scotland, and bred to the sea. Having quitted his native country, he resided at New York, where he became owner of a small vessel, with which he traded among the pirates, obtained a thorough knowledge of their haunts, and could give a better account of them than any other person whatever. He was neither remarkable for the excess of his courage nor for the want of it. In a word, his ruling passion appeared to be avarice; and to this was owing his connexion with the pirates. While in their company he used to converse and act as they did; yet, at other times, he would make singular professions of honesty, and intimate how easy a matter it would be to extirpate these abandoned people, and prevent their future depredations.

His frequent remarks of this kind engaged the notice of several considerable planters, who, forming a more favorable idea of him than his true character would warrant, procured him the patronage with which he was afterwards honoured. For a series of years great complaints had been made of the piracies committed in the West Indies, which had been greatly encouraged by some of the inhabitants of North America, on account of the advantage they derived from purchasing effects thus fraudulently obtained. This coming to the knowledge of King William III. he, in the year 1695, bestowed the government of New England and New York on the Earl of Bellamont, an Irish nobleman, of distinguished character and abilities, who immediately began to consider of the most effectual method to redress the evils *complained of, and consulted with Colonel Livingston, a gentleman who had great property in New York, on the most feasible steps to ob-*

viate the evils so long complained of. At this juncture Captain Kidd was arrived from New York in a sloop of his own: him, therefore, the colonel mentioned to Lord Bellamont as a bold and daring man, who was very fit to be employed against the pirates, as he was perfectly well acquainted with the places which they resorted to. This plan met with the fullest approbation of his lordship, who mentioned the affair to his Majesty, and recommended it to the Board of Admiralty: but such were then the hurry and confusion of public affairs, that, though the design was approved, no steps were taken towards carrying it into execution.

Accordingly Colonel Livingston made application to Lord Bellamont, that, as the affair would not well admit of delay, it was worthy of being undertaken by some private persons of rank and distinction, and carried into execution at their own expense, notwithstanding public encouragement was denied it. His lordship approved of this project, but it was attended with considerable difficulty: at length, however, the Lord-Chancellor Somers, the Duke of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Romney, the Earl of Oxford, and some other persons, with Colonel Livingston, and Captain Kidd, agreed to raise 6000*l.* for the expense of the voyage; and the colonel and captain were to have a fifth of the profits of the whole undertaking.

Matters being thus far adjusted, a commission, in the usual form, was granted to Captain Kidd, to take and seize pirates, and bring them to justice; but there was no special clause or proviso to restrain his conduct or regulate the mode of his proceeding. Kidd was known to Lord Bellamont, and another gentleman presented him to Lord

Romney. With regard to the other parties concerned, he was wholly unacquainted with them; and, so ill was this affair conducted, that he had no private instructions how to act, but received his sailing orders from Lord Bellamont, the purport of which was, that he should act agreeably to the letter of his commission.

Accordingly a vessel was purchased and manned, and received the name of the Adventure Galley; and in this Captain Kidd sailed for New York towards the close of the year 1695, and in his passage made prize of a French ship. From New York he sailed to the Madeira Islands, thence to Bonavista and St. Jago, and from this last place to Madagascar. He now began to cruise at the entrance of the Red Sea; but, not being successful in those latitudes, he sailed to Calicut, and there took a ship of one hundred and fifty tons' burden, which he carried to Madagascar, and disposed of there. Having sold this prize he again put to sea, and, at the expiration of five weeks, took the Quedah Merchant, a ship of above four hundred tons' burden, the master of which was an Englishman, named Wright, who had two Dutch mates on board, and a French gunner; but the crew consisted of Moors, natives of Africa, and were about ninety in number. He carried the ship to St. Mary's, near Madagascar, where he burnt the Adventure Galley, belonging to his owners, and divided the lading of the Quedah Merchant with his crew, taking forty shares to himself.

They then went on board the last-mentioned ship, and sailed for the West Indies. It is uncertain whether the inhabitants of the West India Islands knew that Kidd was a pirate, but he was refused refreshments at Anguilla and St. Thomas's,

and therefore sailed to Mona, between Porto Rico and Hispaniola, where, through the management of an Englishman, named Bolton, he obtained a supply of provisions from Curaçoa. He now bought a sloop of Bolton, in which he stowed great part of his ill-gotten effects, and left the Quedah Merchant, with eighteen of the ship's company, in Bolton's care. While at St. Mary's, ninety men of Kidd's crew left him, and went on board the Moecha Merchant, an East India ship, which had just then commenced pirate.

Kidd now sailed in the sloop, and touched at several places, where he disposed of a great part of his cargo, and then steered for Boston, in New England. In the interim Bolton sold the Quedah Merchant to the Spaniards, and immediately sailed as a passenger in a ship for Boston, where he arrived a considerable time before Kidd, and gave information of what had happened to Lord Bellamont. Kidd, therefore, on his arrival, was seized by order of his lordship, when all he had to urge in his defence was, that he thought the Quedah Merchant was a lawful prize, as she was manned with Moors, though there was no kind of proof that this vessel had committed any act of piracy.

Upon this the Earl of Bellamont immediately dispatched an account to England of the circumstances that had arisen, and requested that a ship might be sent for Kidd, who had committed several other notorious acts of piracy. The ship Rochester was accordingly sent to bring him to England; but this vessel, happening to be disabled, was obliged to return: a circumstance which greatly increased a public clamour which had for a time subsisted respecting this affair, and which, no doubt, took its rise from party prejudice. It was carried to

such a height, that the members of parliament for several places were instructed to move the House for an inquiry into the affair; and accordingly it was moved, in the House of Commons, that 'The letters-patent granted to the Earl of Bellamont and others, respecting the goods taken from pirates, were dishonourable to the king, against the law of nations, contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm, an invasion of property, and destructive to commerce.' Though a negative was put on this motion, yet the enemies of Lord Somers and the Earl of Oxford continued to charge those noblemen with giving countenance to pirates; and it was even insinuated that the Earl of Bellamont was not less culpable than the actual offenders. Another motion was accordingly made in the House of Commons, to address his majesty that 'Kidd might not be tried till the next session of parliament; and that the Earl of Bellamont might be directed to send home all examinations and other papers relative to the affair.' This motion was carried, and the King complied with the request which was made.

As soon as Kidd arrived in England, he was sent for, and examined at the bar of the House of Commons, with a view to fix part of his guilt on the parties who had been concerned in sending him on the expedition; but nothing arose to criminate any of those distinguished persons. Kidd, who was in some degree intoxicated, made a very contemptible appearance at the bar of the House; on which a member, who had been one of the

most earnest to have him examined, violently exclaimed, 'This fellow! I thought he had been only a knave, but unfortunately he happens to be a fool likewise.' Kidd was at length tried at the old Bailey, and was convicted on the clearest evidence; but neither at that time nor afterwards charged any of his employers with being privy to his infamous proceedings.

He suffered, with one of his companions (Darby Mullins), at Execution Dock, on the 23d of May, 1701. After Kidd had been tied up to the gallows, the rope broke,* and he fell to the ground; but being immediately tied up again, the ordinary, who had before exhorted him, desired to speak with him once more; and, on this second application, entreated him to make the most careful use of the few further moments thus providentially allotted him for the final preparation of his soul to meet its important change. These exhortations appeared to have the wished-for effect; and he was left, professing his charity to all the world, and his hopes of salvation through the merits of his Redeemer.

Thus ended the life of Captain Kidd, a man who, if he had entertained a proper regard to the welfare of the public, or even to his own advantage, might have become an useful member of society, instead of a disgrace to it. The opportunities he had obtained of acquiring a complete knowledge of the haunts of the pirates rendered him one of the most proper men in the world to have extirpated this nest of villains; but his own avarice defeated the generous views of some of the

* In cases of this distressing nature, and which hath often happened to the miserable sufferer, the sheriff ought to be punished. It is his duty to carry the sentence of the law into execution, and there can be no plea for not providing a rope of sufficient strength. In such a case as the last, it is in fact a double execution, inflicting unnecessary torments, both of body and mind, on the already too-wretched culprit.

greatest and most distinguished men of the age in which he lived. Hence we may learn the destructive nature of avarice, which generally counteracts all its own purposes. Captain Kidd might have acquired a fortune, and rendered a capital service to his country, in a point the most essential to its interests ; but he appeared to be dead to all those

generous sensations which do honour to humanity, and materially injured his country, while he was bringing final disgrace on himself.

The story of this wretched malefactor will effectually impress on the mind of the reader the truth of the old observation, that 'Honesty is the best policy.'



George Cadell murdering Miss Price.

GEORGE CADDELL,

EXECUTED FOR THE CRUEL MURDER OF MISS PRICE, WHOM HE HAD SEDUCED AND PROMISED MARRIAGE,

Was a native of the town of Broomsgrove, in Worcestershire, where he was articled to an apothecary, with whom he served his time, and then repaired to London, where he attended several of the hospitals to obtain an insight into the art of surgery. As soon as he became tolerably acquainted with the profession he went to Worcester, and lived with Mr. Randall, a capital surgeon

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of that city : in this situation he was equally admired for the depth of his abilities and the amiableness of his temper. Here he married the daughter of Mr. Randall, who died in labour of her first child.

After this melancholy event he went to reside at Litchfield, and continued upwards of two years with Mr. Dean, a surgeon of that place. During his residence here,

he courted Mr. Dean's daughter, to whom he would probably have been married but for the commission of the following crime, which cost him his life :

A young lady, named Elizabeth Price, who had been seduced by an officer in the army, lived near Mr. Caddell's place of residence, and, after her misfortune, supported herself by her skill in needle-work. Caddell becoming acquainted with her, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between them ; and Miss Price, degraded as she was by the unfortunate step she had taken, still thought herself an equal match for one of Mr. Caddell's rank of life.

As pregnancy was shortly the consequence of their intimacy, she repeatedly urged him to marry her, but Mr. Caddell resisted her importunities for a considerable time : at last Miss Price heard of his paying his addresses to Miss Dean ; she then became more importunate than ever, and threatened, in case of his non-compliance, to put an end to all his prospects with that young lady, by discovering every thing that had passed between them. Hereupon Caddell formed the horrid resolution of murdering Miss Price ; for he could neither bear the thought of forfeiting the esteem of a woman that he courted, nor of marrying her who had been as condescending to another as to himself.

This dreadful scheme having entered his head, he called on Miss Price on a Saturday evening, and requested that she would walk in the fields with him on the afternoon of the following day, in order to adjust the plan of their intended marriage. Miss Price, thus *de- luded, met him at the time appointed, on the road leading towards Burton-upon-Trent, at a house*

known by the sign of the Nag's Head. Having accompanied her supposed lover into the fields, and walked about till towards evening, they then sat down under the hedge, where, after a little conversation, Caddell suddenly pulled out a knife, cut her throat, and made his escape. In the distraction of his mind, he left behind him the knife with which he had perpetrated the deed, together with his case of instruments.

When he came home it was observed that he appeared exceedingly confused, though the reason of the perturbation of his mind could not even be guessed at. But, on the following morning, Miss Price being found murdered in the field, great numbers of people went to take a view of the body, among whom was the woman of the house where she lodged, who recollected that she had said she was going to walk with Mr. Caddell ; on which the instruments were examined, and known to have belonged to him. He was accordingly taken into custody, and committed to the gaol of Stafford ; and, being soon afterwards tried, was found guilty, condemned, and executed at Stafford on the 31st of July, 1700.

We have no particular account of the behaviour of this malefactor while under sentence of death, or at the place of execution : yet his fate will afford an instructive lesson to youth. Let no young man, who has connexions of any kind with one woman, think of paying his addresses to another. There can be no such thing as honorable courtship while dishonorable love subsists. Mr. Caddell might have lived a credit to himself, and an ornament to his profession, if he had not held a criminal connexion with Miss Price. Her fate ought to impress on the mind of our female

readers the importance of modest reserve to a woman. We would not be severe on the failings of the sex ; but we cannot help observing, that a woman who has fallen a sacrifice to the arts of one man should be very cautious in yielding to the addresses of another. One false step may be recovered ; but the progress of vice is a down-hill road ; and the farther we depart from the

paths of virtue, still the faster we run. On the contrary, the ways of Virtue are pleasant ; and 'all her paths are paths of peace.' From this story likewise the young officers of our army may learn an useful lesson : for, if Miss Price had not been debauched by one of that profession, the fatal catastrophe above-mentioned had never happened.

JOHN COWLAND,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF SIR ANDREW SLANNING.

THE crime for which this man suffered will show the danger ever to be apprehended from indiscriminate connexion with females, and a caution against intemperance.

John Cowland was the son of reputable parents, who apprenticed him to a goldsmith, but of a vicious irascible disposition. He and some other *bon-vivants* had followed Sir Andrew Slanning, Bart. who had made a temporary acquaintance with an orange-woman, while in the pit at Drury Lane playhouse, and retired with her as soon as the play was ended. They had gone but a few yards before Mr. Cowland put his arm round the woman's neck, on which Sir Andrew desired he would desist, as she was his wife. Cowland, knowing Sir Andrew was married to a woman of honour, gave him the lie, and swords were drawn on both sides ; but, some gentlemen coming up at this juncture, no immediate ill consequence happened.

They all now agreed to adjourn to the Rose Tavern ; and Captain Wagget having there used his utmost endeavours to reconcile the offended parties, it appeared that this mediation was attended with success ; but, as they were going up stairs to drink a glass of wine, Mr. Cowland drew his sword, and stabbed Sir Andrew in the belly, who,

finding himself wounded, cried out, 'Murder!' One of Lord Warwick's servants, and two other persons who were in the house, ran up immediately, and disarmed Cowland of his sword, which was bloody to the depth of five inches, and took him into custody. Cowland now desired to see Sir Andrew, which being granted, he jumped down the stairs, and endeavoured to make his escape ; but, being pursued, he was easily retaken.

Cowland was instantly conducted before a justice of peace, who committed him ; and, on December the 5th, 1700, he was tried at the Old Bailey, on three indictments : the first, at the common law ; the second, on the statute of stabbing ; and the third, on the coroner's inquest, for the murder. Every fact was fully proved on the trial ; and, among other things, it was deposed that the deceased had possessed an estate of 20,000*l.* a year, and his family became extinct by his death ; and that he had been a gentleman of great good-nature, and by no means disposed to animosity. On Cowland's being found guilty, sentence of death was passed on him ; and, though great interest was made to obtain a pardon, he was executed at Tyburn, the 20th of Dec. 1700.

From the moment of his impri-

sonment to the day of his death, his behaviour was truly contrite and penitent; he professed the most unfeigned sorrow for all his sins, and gave the following account of himself: that he was the son of reputable parents, who apprenticed him to a goldsmith; that in the early part of his life he was sober and religious, studying the scriptures, giving a regular attendance on divine worship, and devoutly reflecting on his duty towards God; but that, abandoning this course of life, he became an easy prey to his own intemperate passions, and proceeded from one degree of vice to another, till at length he committed the horrid crime for which he was justly doomed to fall a sacrifice to the violated laws of God and his country.

On a retrospect of this melancholy narrative, some reflections will occur, that, if properly attended to, may be of singular use to the reader. The dispute which

cost Sir Andrew Slanning his life took its rise from his having associated himself with a woman of light character, with whom Cowland thought he had as much right to make free as the baronet: but Sir Andrew was originally to blame; for, as he was a married man, there was a great impropriety in the connexion he had formed: this, however, was no kind of justification of the conduct of Cowland, who could have no business to interfere; and his crime is greatly enhanced by his having committed the murder after an apparent reconciliation had taken place. To sum up our observations in a few words, from this sad tale let married men be taught the danger that may ensue from the slightest criminal connexion, and let young gentlemen learn to govern and moderate their passions: so may all parties live an honour to themselves, and a credit to their families and connexions.

DARBY MULLINS,

EXECUTED FOR PIRACY.

THE unfortunate subject of this short narrative was born in a village in the north of Ireland, about sixteen miles from Londonderry.

Having resided with his father, and followed the business of husbandry till he was about eighteen years of age, the old man then died, and the young one went to Dublin; but he had not been long there before he was enticed to go to the West Indies, where he was sold to a planter, with whom he had resided four years.

At the expiration of that term he became his own master, and thereupon followed the business of a waterman, in which he saved money *enough to purchase a small vessel, in which he traded from one island to another, till the time of the*

dreadful earthquake at Jamaica in the year 1691, from the effects of which he was preserved in a manner almost miraculous.

Soon after this he built himself a house at Kingston, and, having now a wife and family, he opened his new habitation as a punch-house, which, in general, is a very profitable business in that island: but it did not prove so to Mullins, who thereupon took his passage to New York, where he resided two years, and then sailed to the Madeiras, where he remained only three weeks. On his return to New York he buried his wife, and, finding himself not in circumstances to keep house any longer, he purchased a boat of twenty tons' burden, in which he carried wood for

firing from one part of the country to another.

For a while he laboured in this way with some success; but unhappily falling into company with Captain Kidd, and some of his companions, they persuaded him to engage in their piratical practices; urging that their intention being to rob only the enemies of Christianity, the act would be not only lawful, but meritorious.

The consequence of his compliance was, that he was tried at the same sessions as Kidd, and, being legally convicted, suffered death with him at Execution Dock, on the 23d of May, 1701.

From the fate of this offender we

may learn the sin and danger of quitting an honest employment to engage in a business of a contrary nature. We likewise see the fallacy of those specious pretences by which Mullins was prevailed on to embark in one of the vilest species of robbery. He was told that it was no crime to plunder an infidel. If he had reflected but a moment, he must have been convinced that it was equally contrary to the laws of his country and the spirit of Christianity: but, in fact, he did not give himself time to reflect, being seduced by the bad example of others: so true is the apostolical observation, 'Evil communications corrupt good manners.'

HERMAN STRODTMAN;

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF PETER WOLTER, HIS FELLOW APPRENTICE,

Was a German, being born of a respectable family at Revel, in Lissland, who gave him a good education, and brought him up strictly in the tenets of the Protestant religion. About the year 1694, young Strodtman, with a friend and school-fellow, named Peter Wolter, were, by their respective parents, sent in company to London, where they were both bound apprentices to the then eminent Dutch house of Stein and Dorien.

They served their masters some time with diligence, and lived together in great harmony, until a sister of Wolter married very advantageously, which so buoyed up the brother with pride that he assumed a superiority over his fellow apprentice, and which led to the fatal catastrophe. This arrogance produced quarreling, and from words they proceeded to blows, and Wolter beat Strodtman twice—at one time in the counting-house, and at another before the servant-girls in the kitchen. Wolter likewise tra-

duced Strodtman to his masters, who thereupon denied him the liberty and other gratifications that were allowed to his fellow-apprentice. Hereupon Strodtman conceived an implacable hatred against him, and resolved to murder him in some way or other.

His first intention was to have poisoned him; and with this view he mixed some white mercury with a white powder, which Wolter used to keep in a glass in his bed-room, as a remedy for the scurvy; but, this happening to be done in the midst of winter, Wolter had declined taking the powder, so that the other thought of destroying him by the more expeditious method of stabbing.

This scheme, however, he delayed from time to time, while Wolter's pride and arrogance increased to such a degree, that the other thought he should at length be tempted to murder him in sight of the family. Hereupon Strodtman desired one of the maids to in-

timate to his masters his inclination to be sent to the West Indies; but no answer being given to this request, Strodtman grew again uneasy, and his enmity to his fellow-prentice increased to such a degree, that the Dutch maid, observing the agitation of his mind, advised him to a patient submission of his situation, as the most probable method of securing his future peace. Unfortunately he paid no regard to this good advice; but determined on the execution of the fatal plan which afterwards led to his destruction.

On the morning of Good Friday, Strodtman was sent out on business; but, instead of transacting it, he went to Greenwich, with an intention of returning on Saturday, to perpetrate the murder; but, reflecting that his fellow-prentice was to receive the sacrament on Easter Sunday, he abhorred the thought of taking away his life before he had partaken of the Lord's supper: wherefore he sent a letter to his masters on the Saturday, in which he asserted that he had been impressed, and was to be sent to Chatham on Easter Monday, and put on board a ship in the royal navy; but, while he was at Greenwich, he was met by a young gentleman who knew him, and who, returning to London, told Messrs. Stein and Dorein he believed that the story of his being impressed was all invention. Hereupon Mr. Stein went to Chatham, to inquire into the real state of the case; when he discovered that the young gentleman's suspicions were but too well founded.

Strodtman went to the church at Greenwich twice on Easter Sunday, and on the approach of evening came to London, and slept at the *Dolphin inn, in Bishopsgate Street.* On the following day he returned

to Greenwich, and continued either at that place or at Woolwich and the neighbourhood, till Tuesday, when he went to London, lodged in Lombard Street, and returned to Greenwich on the Wednesday.

Coming again to London on the evening of the succeeding day, he did not return any more to Greenwich; but, going to the house of his masters, he told them that what he had written was true, for that he had been pressed. They gave no credit to this tale, but told him they had inquired into the affair, and bid him quit their house. This he did, and took lodgings in Moorfields, where he lay on that and the following night, and on the Saturday he took other lodgings at the Sun, in Queen Street, London.

Before the preceding Christmas he had procured a key on the model of that belonging to his master's house, that he might go in and out at his pleasure. Originally he intended to have made no worse use of this key; but, it being still in his possession, he let himself into the house between eight and nine o'clock in the evening of the Saturday last mentioned; but, hearing the footsteps of some persons going up stairs, he concealed himself behind a door in the passage. As soon as the noise arising from this circumstance was over, he went up one pair of stairs to a room adjoining the counting-house, where he used to sleep, and, having found a tinder-box, he lighted a candle, and put it into his master's dark lantern, which he carried up stairs to an empty room, next to that in which Peter Wolter used to lay. Here he continued a short time, when, hearing somebody coming up stairs, he put out his candle, and fell asleep soon afterwards.

Awaking about twelve o'clock, he listened for a while; and, hear-

ing no noise, he imagined that the family were fast asleep. Hereupon he descended to the room on the first floor, where the tinder-box lay; and, having lighted his candle, he went to the counting-house, and took a sum of money, and several notes and bills.

This being done, he took a piece of wood with which they used to beat tobacco, and, going up stairs again, he hastily entered the room where Peter Wolter was asleep, and, advancing to his bed-side, struck him violently on the head; and, though his heart in some degree failed him, yet he continued his strokes. As the wounded youth groaned much, he took the pillow, and, laying it on his mouth, sat down on the side of the bed, and pressed it hard with his elbow, till no appearance of life remained.

Perceiving Wolter to be quite dead, he searched his chests of drawers and pockets, and took as much money as, with what he had taken from his masters, amounted to above eight pounds. He then packed up some linen and woollen clothes, and, going down one pair of stairs, he threw his bundle into a house that was uninhabited.

He then went up stairs again, and, having cut his candle, lighted both pieces, one of which he placed in a chair close to the bed-curtains, and the other on a chest of drawers, with a view to have set the house on fire, to conceal the robbery and murder of which he had been guilty. This being done, he went through a window into the house where he had thrown his bundle; and in this place he staid till five in the morning, when he took the bundle with him to his lodgings in Queen Street, where he shifted his apparel, and went to the Dutch church in Trinity Lane. After the worship of the congregation was over, he

heard a bill of thanks read which his masters had sent, in devout acknowledgment of the narrow escape that themselves and their neighbours had experienced from the fire. Struck by this circumstance, Strodtman burst into tears; but he endeavoured as much as possible to conceal his emotion from a gentleman who sat in the same pew with him, and who, on their coming out of the church, informed him that the house of Messrs. Stein and Dorien narrowly escaped being burnt on the preceding night, by an accident then unknown; but that the destruction was providentially prevented by the Dutch maid smelling the fire, and seeing the smoke, so that, on alarming her master, the flames were extinguished by a pail of water.

Strodtman made an appointment to meet the gentleman who gave him this information, on the outer walks of the Royal Exchange, in the afternoon, to go to the Dutch church in the Savoy: but the gentleman not coming to his time, he went alone to Stepney Church, and, after service was ended, he walked towards Mile End, where he saw the bodies of Michael Van Berghen and Dromelius, who had been hung in chains, as before mentioned. This sight gave him a shocking idea of the crime of which he had been guilty, and he reflected that he might soon become a like horrid spectacle to mankind. Hence he proceeded to Blackwall, where he saw the captain of a French pirate hanging in chains, which gave fresh force to the gloomy feelings of his mind, and again taught him to dread a similar fate. After having been thus providentially led to the sight of objects which he would otherwise rather have avoided, he returned to his lodgings in great dejection of mind, but far from re-

penting or even being properly sensible of the crime he had committed ; for, as he himself said, ' his heart did not yet relent for what he had done ; and if he had failed in murdering his fellow-'prentice in his bed, he should have destroyed him some other way.'

On his return to his lodgings he ate his supper, said his prayers, and went to bed. On the following morning he went to the White Horse inn without Crippelgate to receive cash for a bill of twenty pounds, which he had stolen from his master's house ; but the person who was to have paid it being gone out, he was desired to call again about twelve o'clock. In the interim he went to the house of a banker, in Lombard Street, who requested him to carry some money to his (the banker's) sister, who was at a boarding-school at Greenwich. Strodtman said he could not go till the following day, when he would execute the commission : but, before he left the house, the banker told him that a young man named Green had been to inquire for him ; on which Strodtman said, that if Mr. Green returned, he should be informed that he would come back at one o'clock. Hence he went again to the White Horse inn, where he found the party, who told him that he had no orders to pay the money for the bill.

Having received this answer, he went to his lodgings, where he dined, and then went to the banker's, in Lombard Street, where his master, Stein, with Mr. Green and another gentleman, were waiting for him. Mr. Stein asked him if he would go willingly to his house, or be carried by porters ; and he replied, that he would go of his own accord. *When he came there, he was asked some questions respecting the atrocious crimes of which*

he had been guilty ; but, persisting that he was innocent, he was searched, and the 20*l.* bill found in his possession. They then inquired where he lodged ; to which he answered, in Moorfields whereupon they all went thither together, but the people denied his lodging there at that time.

Mr. Stein, finding him unwilling to speak the truth, told him that, if he would make a full discovery, he should be sent abroad out of the reach of justice. Hereupon he mentioned his real lodgings ; on which they went thither in a coach, and, finding the bills and other stolen effects, Strodtman was carried before Sir Humphrey Edwin, who committed him to Newgate on his own confession.

He was not tried at the first sessions after his commitment, and, in the interval that he lay in prison, some bad characters who were confined there prevailed on him, when he came to trial, to plead not guilty ; a circumstance which he afterwards sincerely repented of. On his trial, however, there were so many corroborative proofs of his guilt, that the jury could not hesitate to convict him, and he received the sentence awarded by law.

While he was under sentence of death, his behaviour was remarkably contrite and penitent ; and when the ordinary of Newgate acquainted him that the warrant for his execution was come down, and that he would suffer in a few days, he said, " The Lord's will be done ! I am willing to die, only I beg of God that I may not (as I deserve) die an eternal death ; and that, though I die here, for my most heinous and enormous crimes, yet I may, for the love of Christ, live eternally with him in heaven : " to which he added, " God bless the king, and all my honorable judges : they have done

me no wrong, but it is I that have done great wrong. The Lord be merciful to me, a great sinner, else I perish!"

At times he seemed to despair, because he feared that his repentance was not equal to his guilt; but then again his mind was occasionally warmed with the hope that his penitence was such as would lead to salvation.

When at the place of execution, he acknowledged his crime, for which he professed the sincerest sorrow and repentance; he begged pardon of God for having endeavoured, with presumptuous lies, to conceal his guilt, which being punished in this world, his eternal punishment in the next might be avoided. He died full of contrition, penitence and hope; and suffered at Tyburn on the 18th June, 1701; and it was remarked that he kept his hand lifted up for a considerable time after the cart was drawn away.

There are some very remarkable circumstances in the case of Herman Strodtman, which are well worthy of observation. The prudence of the Dutch maid, who, when she observed the agitation of his mind, advised him to bear present evils with resolution, in the hope of future peace. The doctrine inculcated by this honest girl ought not to be despised even by the wisest of men.

Strodtman's resolution not to murder Wolter till he had received the sacrament has something shockingly striking in it. We are at once charmed and amazed at the influence religion has on the mind. A man is determined to commit murder, but will defer the fatal stroke till he thinks the soul of his adversary is properly prepared for eternity! Hence let parents be taught the necessity of impressing the precepts of religion on the minds of

their children. Even a man in the resolution of deliberate murder could not forget that there is a God to reward the pious as well as punish the wicked.

The influence of religion over this determined sinner, previous to the commission of the horrid act, must add a charm to the comfort we find in its true exercise. To religion more than to the terrors of the law do we owe our safety. The latter may be evaded, but a man cannot fly from his own conscience; which, though sometimes tardily, will ever lead to its own punishment.

Strodtman's master, Stein, going to Chatham, to inquire if he had been really impressed, and finding that he had not, is a good lesson against the sin of lying. Nothing is so easy as the detection of a liar; nothing more scandalous than the being liable to such detection.

Strodtman's going to church repeatedly, before and after the commission of the murder, are very striking circumstances, and combine with those above-mentioned to prove that it is impossible to root from the mind that regard for religion which should be planted in the years of infancy.

By Strodtman's going to receive the money for the bill of twenty pounds he took the readiest method to convict himself; for he might have been certain that, when the bill was missed, payment would be stopped: but thus it happens, in almost every instance, that villany defeats its own ends.

From the whole of this malefactor's case we may learn that the direct road to happiness is through the path of integrity; and that the indulgence of violent passions, whatever the provocation may be, is equally inconsistent with the laws of reason, and the doctrines of Christianity.

MARY ADAMS,

EXECUTED FOR PRIVATELY STEALING.

THIS unhappy woman was born at Reading, in Berkshire, and, when she was old enough to go to service, went to live with a grocer in that town. Mary being a girl of vivacity and genteel figure, she unfortunately attracted the regard of the grocer's son, and the consequence of their connexion became very conspicuous in a short time.

As soon as it was evident that she was pregnant, she was dismissed from her master's service, on which she immediately made oath that his son was the father of the child thereafter to be born—a circumstance that compelled the old gentleman to support her till she was brought to bed.

She had not been delivered long before she went to London, and entered into the service of a mercer in Cheapside, where, by prudent conduct, she might have retrieved the character she had forfeited in the country; for, though she had already suffered by her indiscretion, an intimacy soon subsisted between her master and herself; but, as their interviews could not conveniently be held at home, they contrived to meet on evenings at other places, when the mistress of the house was gone to the theatre, or out on a visit.

This connexion continued till the girl was far advanced in her pregnancy, when the master, apprehensive of disagreeable consequences at home, advised the girl to quarrel with her mistress, in order that she might be dismissed, and then took a lodging for her at Hackney, where she remained till she was delivered; and in the mean time the connexion between her and her master continued as before.

Being brought to bed of a child that died in a few hours after its birth, the master thought himself happy, supposing he could easily free himself from the incumbrance of the mother, of whom he now became heartily tired.

When the girl recovered from her lying-in, he told her that she must go to service, as it did not suit him to maintain her any longer; but this enraged her to the highest degree, and she threatened to discover the nature of their connexion to his wife, unless he would make her a present of twenty guineas; and with this demand he thought it prudent to comply, happy to get rid of her even on such terms.

Being now in possession of money, and in no want of clothes in which to make a genteel appearance, she removed from Hackney to Wych Street, without Temple Bar, but was scarcely settled in her new lodgings before she sent a letter to the mercer's wife, whom she acquainted with the nature of the connexion that had subsisted between her late master and herself; but she did not mention her place of abode in this letter.

The consequence was, that the mercer was obliged to acknowledge the crime of which he had been guilty, and solicit his wife's pardon in terms of the utmost humiliation. This pardon was promised, but whether it was ever ratified remain a doubt.

Mrs. Adams had the advantage of an engaging figure, and, passing as a young woman in her new lodgings, she was soon married to a young fellow in the neighbourhood; but it was not long before he discovered the imposition that had

been practised on him, on which he embarked on board a ship in the royal navy.

By this time Mrs. Adams's money was almost expended; but, as her clothes were yet good, an attorney of Clement's Inn took her into keeping; and, after she had lived a short time with him, she went to another of the same profession, with whom she cohabited above two years; but on his marriage she was once more abandoned to the world.

Fertile of invention, and too proud to condescend to accept of a common service, she became connected with a notorious bawd of Drury Lane, who was very glad of her assistance, and promised herself considerable advantage from the association. In this situation Mrs. Adams displayed her charms to considerable advantage, and was as happy as any common prostitute can expect to be: but alas! what is this happiness but a prelude to the extremity of misery and distress? Such indeed it was found by Mrs. Adams, who having been gratified by a gentleman with a considerable sum of money, the bawd quarreled with her respecting the dividing of it, and, a battle ensuing, our heroine was turned out of the house, after she had got a black eye in the contest.

After this she used to parade the Park in the day-time, and walk the streets in the evening, in search of casual lovers; at length she joined the practice of theft to that of incontinence, and few of her chance acquaintance escaped being robbed. She was often taken into custody for these practices, but continually escaped through defect of evidence.

But an end was soon put to her depredations; for, having enticed a gentleman to a bagnio near Covent Garden, she poked his pocket of all his money, and a bank note to

a large amount, and left him while he was asleep. When he awoke, he sent immediate notice to the Bank to stop payment; and, as Mrs. Adams came soon after to receive the money for the note, she was taken into custody, and lodged in prison; and, being in a short time tried at the Old Bailey, she was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 16th of June, 1702.

After her conviction she lived in the same gay and dissipated manner that she had done before, and was visited by many of her former acquaintance, who supplied her with money to support her extravagance. Agreeable to her own request, too, their mistaken bounty contributed to purchase her a suit of mourning, in which she was executed; and they buried her in as handsome a manner as if her life had been conducted by the rules of virtue, and she had likewise been a woman of fortune.

The reflections naturally arising from this case are such as we hope may prove serviceable to our readers of both sexes. This young woman submitting to be debauched by her master's son, at Reading, laid the foundation of her ruin. Hence girls of her rank of life should be taught never to yield to unlawful solicitations: for when men above their own sphere pay addresses to them, it may reasonably be supposed that honorable marriage is not intended; and girls should always despise addresses of every other kind, and shun the deluder as they would a pestilence.

When Mary Adams got a reputable service in London, she had a fair opportunity of recovering her character; and the moment her master attempted to seduce her she ought to have quitted her place. Her meanness afterwards,

in threatening to discover to her mistress the nature of the connexion between her master and herself, in order to extort twenty guineas from him; and her actually doing this after she had received the money sufficiently marks the profligacy of her mind!

The figure the mercer made in begging pardon of his wife, for his connexion with the girl, paints, in a striking light, the meanness to which a man is liable to condescend who violates the sacred laws of marriage.

The rest of Mrs. Adams's life carries its own lesson with it. The kept mistress, on the slightest change in the inclination of her keeper, is liable to descend to the rank of a common woman of the town; the common women are almost all of them thieves; and theft naturally leads to the gallows.

The young fellow who first debauched this girl, at Reading, must have felt great uneasiness at hearing that she brought herself to an ignominious end, in a great measure through his originally seducing her. But for that first misfortune, she might have lived an honest wife to a countryman of her own rank, and avoided the disgrace of a shameful exit at Tyburn.

The man who thinks of seducing a poor girl should reflect that, besides the ruin of her, he involves her unhappy parents and friends in all the bitterness of woe! From this melancholy tale, then, let our men and maids be taught that stolen pleasures, though tempting to their irregular passions, are followed by a series of bad consequences, and end in fruitless repentance and aggravated despair!

In contemplating the life of Mary Adams, and viewing the wretched state of thousands of unhappy females loitering through the streets of London, for the abhorred hire of prostitution, it is impossible to repress the tear of pity. Many of them, perhaps, originally seduced from a state of innocence, while they were the joy and comfort of their parents—many of them born and educated to expect a better fate, until, deceived by falsehood and villany, they see their error when it is too late to recede. In this situation, abandoned by their relations and friends, deserted by their seducers, and at large upon the world, loathed and avoided by those who formerly held them in estimation, what are they to do? In the present unhappy state of things, they seem to have no alternative but to become the miserable instruments of promoting and practising that species of seduction and immorality of which themselves are the victims.* And what is the result?—It is pitiable to relate. They are compelled of necessity to mingle with the abandoned herd who have long been practised in the walks of infamy, and become, like them, speedily polluted and depraved. Oaths, imprecations, and obscene language by degrees become familiar to their ears, which necessity compels them to endure, and at length to imitate, and practise in their turn upon the unwary youth, who too easily falls into the snare.

Thus it is, from the multitudes of those unhappy females that assemble now in all parts of the town, that the morals of the youth are corrupted; that unnecessary ex-

* It is in the first stage of seduction, before the female mind becomes vitiated and depraved, that asylums are most useful. If persons in this unhappy situation had it in their power to resort to a medium whereby they might be reconciled to their relations, while uncontaminated by the vices attached to general prostitution, numbers who are now lost might be saved to society.

penses are incurred, and undue, and too often criminal, means are resorted to, for the purpose of gratifying passions which, but for those temptations which constantly assail them in almost every street of the metropolis, would not have been thought of. Through this medium apprentices, clerks, and other persons in trust, are seduced from the paths of honesty, masters are plundered, and parents are afflicted; while many a youth who might have become the pride of his family, a comfort to the declining years of his parents, and an ornament to society, exchanges a life of virtue and industry for the pursuits of the gambler, the swindler, and the vagabond. Nor is the lot of these poor deluded females less deplorable. Although some few of them may obtain settlements, while others bask for awhile in the temporary sunshine of ease and splendour, the major part terminate a short life in misery and wretchedness.

What has become of the multitudes of unfortunate females, elegant in their persons and sumptuous in their attire, who were seen in the streets of the metropolis, and at places of public amusement, twenty years ago? Alas! could their progress be developed, and their ultimate situations or exit from the world disclosed, it would lay open a catalogue of sufferings and affliction, beyond what the most romantic fancy could depict or exhibit to the feeling mind.

Exposed to the rude insults of the inebriated and the vulgar, the impositions of brutal officers and watchmen, and to the chilling blasts of the night during the most inclement weather; in thin apparel, partly in compliance with the fashion of the day, but more frequently from the pawnbroker's shop ren-

dering their necessary garments inaccessible; diseases, where their unhappy vocation does not produce them, are generated. No pitying hand appears to help them in such situations. The feeling parent or relation is far off. An abandoned monster of the same sex, inured in the practice of infamy and seduction, instead of the consolation which sickness requires, threatens to turn the unhappy victim out of doors when the means of subsistence are cut off, and the premium for shelter is no longer forthcoming; or perhaps the unfeeling landlord of a miserable half-furnished lodging afflicts the poor unhappy female by declarations equally hostile to the feelings of humanity; till at length, turned out into the streets, she languishes and ends her miserable days in an hospital or a workhouse, or perhaps perishes in some inhospitable hovel, alone, without a friend to console her, or a fellow mortal to close her eyes in the pangs of dissolution.

If no other argument could be adduced in favour of some arrangements calculated to stop the progress of female prostitution, compassion for the sufferings of the unhappy victims would be sufficient; but other reasons occur, equally powerful, why this evil should be controlled.

To prevent its existence, even to a considerable extent, in so great a metropolis as London, is as impossible as to resist the torrent of the tides; it is an evil, therefore, which must be endured while human passions exist; but it is, at the same time, an evil which may not only be lessened, but rendered less noxious and dangerous to the peace and good order of society: it may be stripped of its indecency, and also of a considerable portion of the danger attached to it to the youth of both sexes.

The lures for the seduction of youth passing along the streets in the course of their ordinary business may be prevented by a police applicable to this object, without either infringing upon the feelings of humanity or insulting distress; and still more is it practicable to remove the noxious irregularities which are occasioned by the indiscreet conduct and the shocking behaviour of women of the town, and their still more blameable paramours, in openly insulting public morals, and rendering the situation of modest women at once irksome and unsafe, either in places of public entertainment or while passing along the most public streets in the metropolis, particularly in the evening.

This unrestrained license given to males and females in the walks of prostitution was not known in former times at places of public resort, where there was at least an affectation of decency. To the disgrace, however, of the police, the evil has been suffered to increase; and the boxes of the theatres often exhibit scenes which are certainly extremely offensive to modesty, and contrary to that decorum which ought to be maintained, and that protection to which the respectable part of the community are entitled, against indecency and indecorum, when their families, often composed of young females, visit places of public resort.

In this instance, the enduring such impropriety of conduct so contrary to good morals marks strongly the growing depravity of the age. To familiarize the eyes and ears of the innocent part of the sex to the scenes which are often exhibited in the theatres is tantamount to carrying them to a school of vice and debauchery:

Vice is a monster of such frightful mien,
That to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft—familiar with her face,
We first endure—then pity—then embrace.

For the purpose of understanding more clearly by what means it is possible to lessen the evils arising from female prostitution in the metropolis, it may be necessary to view it in all its ramifications.

In point of extent it certainly exceeds credibility; but, although there are many exceptions, the great mass, whatever their exterior may be, are mostly composed of women who have been in a state of menial servitude, and of whom not a few, from the love of idleness and dream, with, in this case, the misfortune of good looks, have, partly from inclination, not seldom from previous seduction and loss of character, resorted to prostitution as a livelihood.

They are still, however, objects of compassion, although, under the circumstances incident to their situation, they cannot be supposed to experience those poignant feelings of distress which are peculiar to women who have moved in a higher sphere, and who have been better educated.

The whole may be estimated as follows:

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| 1. Of the class of well-educated women, it is earnestly hoped the number does not exceed . . . | 2,000 |
| 2. Of the class composed of persons above the rank of menial servants, perhaps . . . | 3,000 |
| 3. Of the class who may have been employed as menial servants, or seduced in very early life, it is conjectured, in all parts of the town, including Wapping and the streets adjoining the river, there may not be less, who live wholly by prostitution, than . . . | 30,000 |
| | 35,000 |
| 4. Of those, in different ranks in society, who live partly by . . . | |

titution, including the multitudes of low females who cohabit with labourers and others without matrimony, there may be in all, in the metropolis, about 25,000
Total 60,000

When a general survey is taken of the metropolis, the great numbers among the higher and middle classes of life who live unmarried, the multitudes of young men yearly arriving at the age of puberty, the strangers who resort to the metropolis, the seamen and nautical labourers employed in the trade of the river Thames, who amount at least to forty thousand, and the profligate state of society in vulgar life—the intelligent mind will soon be reconciled to the statement, which, at first view, would seem to excite doubts, and require investigation.

But, whether the numbers of

these truly unfortunate women are a few thousands less or more is of no consequence in the present discussion, since it is beyond all doubt that the evil is of a magnitude that is excessive, and imperiously calls for a remedy: not, certainly, a remedy against the possibility of female prostitution; for it has already been stated that it is a misfortune that must be endured in large societies, where vicious propensities are engendered, and facilities afforded for the gratification of unlawful desires. All that can be attempted is to divest it of the faculty of extending its noxious influence beyond certain bounds, and restrain those excesses and indecencies which have already been shown to be so extremely noxious to society, and unavoidably productive of depravity and crimes.

THOMAS COOK,

MURDERER AND RIOTER, WHO CAUSED HIS OWN APPREHENSION.

How frequently do we find that the guilty, in the interval of time between the commission and conviction of a crime, impelled by an infatuation beyond all resistance, introduce the subject of their crime into conversation with strangers? Many years ago a mail robber was apprehended in a remote part of Cornwall, on suspicion, from his frequently speaking upon the nature and danger of plundering the public mail, and executed for that offence.

The subject of the present memoir was taken into custody at Chester, for a crime committed in London, merely from his constant relation of the riot in which he had committed the murder. Thus, by a kind of mental *ignis fatuus*, the murderer was led on to his own detection. These are the workings of conscience, that earthly hell, which

torments those who, with malice afore-thought, have spilt the blood of their fellow-creatures. How very strangely did this mental agony appear in the conduct of Governor Wall, whose life shall hereafter be given. After twenty years had elapsed from the commission of the murder, and while he lived in personal security in a foreign country, his conscience afforded him no peace of mind. He voluntarily returned to London, sought his own apprehension, was convicted, and executed.

Thomas Cook was the son of a butcher, a man of reputation at Gloucester. When he was about fifteen years of age his father put him apprentice to a barber-surgeon in London, with whom he lived two years, and then, running away, engaged himself in the service of — Needham, Esq. who was page of

honour to King William the Third; but his mother writing to him, and intimating, in the vulgar phrase, 'that a gentleman's service was no inheritance,' he quitted his place, and, going to Gloucester, engaged in the business of a butcher, it being the profession of several of his ancestors. He followed his trade for some time, and served master of the company of butchers in his native city; after which he abandoned that business, and took an inn; but it does not appear that he was successful in it, as he soon afterwards turned grazier.

Restless, however, in every station of life, he repaired to London, where he commenced prize-fighter at May-fair. At this time May-fair was a place greatly frequented by prize-fighters, thieves, and women of bad character. Here puppet-shows were exhibited, and it was the favorite resort of all the profligate and abandoned. At length the nuisance increased to such a degree that Queen Anne issued her proclamation for the suppression of vice and immorality, with a particular view to this fair; in consequence of which the justices of peace issued their warrant to the high constable, who summoned all the inferior constables to his assistance. When they came to suppress the fair, Cook, with a mob of about thirty soldiers and other persons, stood in defiance of the peace-officers, at whom they threw brickbats, by which some of the latter were wounded.

Cooper, the constable, being the most active, Cook drew his sword and stabbed him in the belly, and he died of the wound at the expiration of four days. Hereupon Cook fled to Ireland, and, as it was deposited upon his trial, while he was in a public house, he swore in a profane manner, for which the land-

lord censured him, and told him there were persons in the house who would take him in custody for it: to which he answered, "Are there any of the informing dogs in Ireland? we in London drive them; for at a fair called May-fair, there was a noise which I went out to see—six soldiers and myself—the constables played their parts with their staves, and I played mine; and, when the man dropped, I wiped my sword, put it up, and went away."

Cook, having repeatedly talked in this boasting and insolent manner, was at length taken into custody, and sent to Chester, from whence he was removed, by writ of *habeas corpus*, to London, and, being tried at the Old Bailey, was convicted, and received sentence of death. After conviction he solemnly denied the crime for which he had been condemned, declaring that he had no sword in his hand on the day the constable was killed, and was not in company with those who killed him. Having received the sacrament on the 21st of July, 1703, he was taken from Newgate to be carried to Tyburn; but, when he had got to High Holborn, opposite Bloomsbury, a reprieve arrived for him till the following Friday. On his return to Newgate he was visited by numbers of his acquaintance, who rejoiced on his narrow escape. On Friday he received another respite till the 11th of August, on which day he was executed.

The royal prerogative allows the king to reprieve the criminal, and, at his pleasure, afterwards to give the fiat of execution. In the case of Thomas Cook we have an example of this ill-timed lenity. When once the mind of the criminal is fortified by repentance and resignation to death, and then permitted to enjoy the anticipation of the remainder

of a natural course of life through a reprieve, it is cruel to proceed to the execution of the sentence of the law.

May the fate of this malefactor have its proper effect, in teaching youth to refrain from evil company,

and to associate only with those by whose instructions they may grow wiser and better; for this unfortunate man seems to have fallen a sacrifice to the low passion he had imbibed for the life of a prize-fighter.



Dramatti's Fatal Encounter with his Wife.

JOHN PETER DRAMATTI,
EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS unfortunate man was the son of Protestant parents, born at Saverdun, in the county of Foix, and province of Languedoc, in France. He received a religious education; and, when he arrived at years of maturity, left his own country, on account of the persecution then prevailing there, and went to Geneva. From thence he travelled into Germany, and served as a horse-grenadier under the Elector of Brandenburg, who was afterwards King of Prussia. When he had been in this life about a year he came over to England, and en-

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tered into the service of Lord Haversham, with whom he remained about twelve months, and then enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of Colonel de la Melonière. Having made two campaigns in Flanders, the regiment was ordered into Ireland, where it was dismissed from farther service; in consequence of which Dramatti obtained his liberty.

He now became acquainted with a widow, between fifty and sixty years of age, who pretending she had a great fortune, and was allied to the royal family of France, he soon married her, not only on ac-

count of her supposed wealth and rank, but also of her understanding English and Irish, thinking it prudent to have a wife who could speak the language of the country in which he proposed to spend the remainder of his life.

As soon as he discovered that his wife had no fortune, he took a small house and a piece of ground, about ten miles from Cork, intending to turn farmer; but, being altogether ignorant of husbandry, he found it impossible to subsist by that profession, on which he went to Cork, and worked as a skinner, being the trade to which he was brought up. At the expiration of a twelvemonth from his coming to that city, he went to London, and offered his service again to Lord Haversham, and was admitted as one of his domestics. His wife, unhappy on account of their separate residence, wished to live with him at Lord Haversham's, which he would not consent to, saying that his lordship did not know he was married. Hereupon she entreated him to quit his service, which he likewise refused, saying that he could not provide for himself so well in any other situation, and that it would be ungenerous to leave so indulgent a master.

The wife now began to evince the jealousy of her disposition, and intimated that Dramatti had fixed his affections on some other woman; and the following circumstance aggravated the malignant disorder that preyed upon her mind: Dramatti being attacked with a violent fever, about the Christmas preceding the time the murder was committed, his noble master gave orders that all possible care should be taken of him at his lordship's expense. At this period Mrs. Dramatti paid a visit to her husband, and again urged him to quit his service, which he positively refused. A servant girl came into the room, bringing him

some water-gruel; and the wife, suspecting that this was her rival in her husband's affections, once more entreated him to leave his place; in answer to which he said he must be out of his senses to abandon a situation in which he was so well provided for, and treated with such humanity.

Dramatti, being recovered from his illness, visited his wife at her lodgings as often as was consistent with the duties of his station; but this not being so frequently as she wished him to come, she grew more uneasy than before. Lord Haversham having taken lodgings at Kensington, Dramatti was so busy in packing up some articles on the occasion, that he had no opportunity of acquainting his wife with their removal. At length she learnt this circumstance from another quarter; on which, inflamed to the highest degree of rage, she went to Kensington to reproach her husband with his unkindness to her, though he declared he always maintained her as well as he was able; and, as a proof of it, had given her three guineas but a little time before the murder was committed.

Frequent were the disputes between this unhappy man and his wife, till, on the 9th of June, 1703, Dramatti being sent to London, and his business lying near Soho, he called on his wife, who lodged in that neighbourhood; and, having been with her some time, he was about to take his leave, but she laid hold of him, and wanted to detain him. Having got away from her, he went towards Charing Cross, to which place she followed him; but at length seemed to yield to his persuasions that she would go home, as he told her he was going to his lordship in Spring Gardens. Instead, however, of going home, she went and waited for him at or near Hyde Park Gate; and in the evening

he found her there, as he was going to Kensington. At the Park-gate she stopped him, and insisted that he should go no farther unless he took her with him. He left her abruptly, and went towards Chelsea, but she followed him till they came near Bloody-bridge, where the quarrel being vehemently renewed, she seized his neckcloth, and would have strangled him, had he not beat her with his cane and sword, which latter she broke with her hands, as she was remarkable for her strength; and, if he had been unarmed, could have easily overpowered him.

Having wounded her in so many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his passion immediately began to subside, and, falling on his knees, he devoutly implored the pardon of God for the horrid sin of which he had been guilty. He then went on to Kensington, where his fellow-servants observing that his clothes were bloody, he said he had been attacked by two men in Hyde Park, who would have robbed him of his clothes, but that he defended himself, and broke the head of one of them.

This story was credited for a short time; and on the following day Dramatti went to London, where he heard a paper read in the streets respecting the murder that had been committed. Though he dreaded being taken into custody every moment, yet he did not seek to make his escape, but dispatched his business in London, and returned to Kensington.

On the following day the servants heard an account of the murder that had been committed near Bloody-bridge; they immediately hinted to his lordship that they suspected Dramatti had murdered his wife, as they had been known to quarrel before, and as he came home the

preceding evening with his sword broke, the hilt of it bruised, his cane shattered, and some blood on his clothes.

Upon this Lord Haversham, with a view to employ him, that he might not think himself suspected, bid him get the coach ready, and, in the interim, sent for a constable, who, on searching him, found a woman's cap in his pocket, which afterwards proved to have belonged to his wife. When he was examined before a justice of peace he confessed he had committed the crime; but, in extenuation of it, said that his wife was a worthless woman, who had entrapped him into marriage by pretending to be the blood-royal of France, and a woman of fortune.

On his trial it appeared that he went to Lord Haversham's chamber, late on the night on which the murder was committed, after that nobleman was in bed; and it was supposed he had an intention of robbing his lordship, who called out to know what he wanted; but, in a solemn declaration Dramatti made after his conviction, he steadfastly denied all intention of robbing his master, declaring he only went into the room to fetch a silver tumbler, which he had forgot, that he might have it in readiness to take in some asses' milk in the morning for his lordship.

The body of Mrs. Dramatti was found in a ditch between Hyde Park and Chelsea, and a track of blood was seen to the distance of twenty yards, at the end of which a piece of a sword was found sticking in a bank, which fitted the other part of the sword in the prisoner's possession. The circumstances attending the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, the culprit was found guilty, condemned, and, on the 21st of July, 1703, was executed at Tyburn.

From this melancholy narrative the reader is taught to shun the vice of lying, and to dread jealousy as the most baneful of all the disorders of the mind. The two causes that contributed to the untimely death of this unhappy couple were those above mentioned: by a lie the woman seduced Dramatti to marry, and by her ill-founded jealousy, and ungovernable passion consequent thereon, provoked him to murder.

Though nothing can be urged in extenuation of a crime of so black a die as murder, yet one can hardly help pitying a man who has been instigated to the commission of it by a vile deception in the first instance, and ungovernable passions in the second. Our young readers

will do well to recollect the following lines of the pious Dr. Watts:

'O 'tis a lovely thing for youth
To walk betimes in wisdom's way;
To fear a lie, to speak the truth,
That we may trust to all they say.'

Those in the married state who peruse this story will be particularly struck with the following words of the immortal Shakspeare:

'The jealous are the damn'd;'

for surely nothing can approach so nearly to the torments we suppose unhappy spirits to endure in a future state as the pangs of jealousy, perpetually corroding the mind, and rendering the unhappy subjects of it constantly uneasy with themselves, and objects at once of the pity and derision of others.

THOMAS ESTRICK,

EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING,

WAS born in the borough of Southwark, in the year 1676. His father was a currier, and instructed him in his own business; but the boy showed a very early attachment to pleasures and gratifications above his age, and incompatible with his situation.

When the time of his apprenticeship was expired, he was of too unsettled a disposition to follow his business, and therefore engaged in the service of a gentleman of fortune at Hackney; but he had not been long in this new place before his master was robbed of plate, and other valuable effects, to the amount of above eighty pounds.

The fact was, that Estrick had stolen these effects; but, such was the ascendancy that he had obtained over his master, and such the baseness of his own disposition, that he *had art enough* to impute the crime to one of the servant maids, who was turned out of the house with

every circumstance of unmerited disgrace.

Estrick, having quitted this service, took a shop in Cock Alley, near Cripplegate Church, where he carried on the business to which he was bred; and, while in this station, he courted a girl of reputation, to whom he was soon afterwards married. It should be remarked that he had been instigated to rob his master at Hackney by some young fellows of a profligate disposition; and he had not been married more than half a year when these dissolute companions threatened to give him up to justice, if he refused to bribe them to keep the secret.

Estrick, terrified at the thoughts of a prosecution, gave them his note of hand for the sum they demanded; but, when the note became due, he was unable to pay it: on which he was arrested, and lay some time in prison, but at length obtained his

liberty in defect of the prosecution of the suit.

As soon as he was at large he went to lodge with a person who kept his former house in Cock Alley; but, on taking possession of his lodgings, he found that a woman who lodged and died in the room, during his absence, had left a box containing cash to the amount of about ninety pounds.

Having possessed himself of this sum, he opened a shop in Long Alley, Moorfields; but his old associates having propagated a report to the prejudice of his character, he thought he should not be safe in that situation, and therefore took shipping for Holland, having previously disposed of his effects. On his arrival in Holland he found no opportunity of employing his little money to any advantage, and therefore spent the greater part of it, and then returned to his native country.

Soon after his return he found himself reduced to great distress; on which he had recourse to a variety of illegal methods to supply his necessities. He was guilty of privately stealing, was a house-

breaker, a street-robber, and a highwayman. In a short time, however, the career of his wickedness was at an end.

He was apprehended, tried, and convicted, and, in consequence thereof, was executed at Tyburn on the 10th of March, 1703, before he had attained the age of twenty-seven years.

From the particular circumstances which contributed to bring this offender to justice, the ill effects of keeping bad company may be learned. If he had not associated with young fellows of bad character he would not have been reduced to the necessity of giving his note of hand, which carried him to a prison, and consequently threw him out of business when he seemed disposed to have got an honest living. The same unhappy connexion likewise obliged him to depart for Holland, after he was a second time settled; and these circumstances, in fact, contributed to his final disgrace and destruction. Hence let youth in general be taught to 'avoid every appearance of evil,' and to remember that text of Scripture—'If sinners entice thee, consent thou not.'

GERALD FITZGERALD,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

GERALD Fitzgerald was the son of a respectable farmer near Limerick, in Ireland, where he was born in the year 1671, and educated in the Protestant religion, his father being of that persuasion.

At the age of fifteen he came to London to learn the art of peruke-making under a relation of his father's: but soon associating himself with bad company, he ran away from his kinsman at the expiration of three years, and entered into the service of Sir Henry Johnson, and had the direction of the domestic

affairs of his new master. However, he had not been long in this service when his old associates persuaded him to leave it, on which he entered on board a man of war, and was soon advanced to the station of steward to the captain.

He made some voyages to the East and West Indies, and on his return to England was married to a relation of the captain, a young lady whose singular good qualities were admirably calculated to give happiness to any man who had possessed wisdom sufficient to have

known in what true happiness consisted.

He had not been married many months before he went out as purser to a man of war bound to the East Indies; but this ship being lost on the coast of China, he returned to England in a merchantman, and afterwards sailed as a purser in a ship of war, which took some prizes, of which Fitzgerald received his share.

Being again in London, he began to grow neglectful of his wife, engaged in the vices of the town, kept the worst company, and frequented houses of ill fame. In one of these he quarrelled with a gentleman named Pix, respecting a woman of the town, and a violent contention arising, Fitzgerald killed the other on the spot with his sword.

For this offence he was tried at the Old Bailey, and, being convicted on full evidence, he was hanged at Tyburn, on the 22d of December, 1703, dying a sincere penitent for his crimes, which, though aggravated in their nature, had been but of short continuance.

The fate of Fitzgerald should afford a lesson of caution to youth in general never to associate with women of abandoned characters; and, in particular, this resolution ought to be impressed on the minds of married men. This unhappy malefactor was united in wedlock with a young lady, whose relation to him demanded his protection, and whose superior virtues had every claim to his tenderest regard: yet, in a rash quarrel about a woman of the town, could he murder his friend, make his relations wretched, and bring destruction on his own head.

Fitzgerald had been educated in a strict regard to the duties of religion; but this wore off by his being a constant witness of that dissoluteness of manners which too frequently prevails on board our ships, where it often happens that no chaplain attends to perform that duty for the discharge of which he is paid out of the wages of the seamen: a shameful abuse, which calls for redress from those whose station includes the superintendence of naval affairs.

JOHN SMITH,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

JOHN Smith was born at Winchcomb, about ten miles from the city of Gloucester, of honest parents, who gave him a decent and religious education, and brought him up to the business of peruke-making; but, being of an idle and extravagant disposition, he quitted his employment, and went to sea: and, though he continued a sailor but a short time, yet his manners became more abandoned during this short period.

When he quitted the naval service he became intimately acquainted with a person of his own profes-

sion in Chancery Lane, with whom he agreed to go and commit depredations on the highway; and, in consequence of this determination, they set out together on Sunday, the 29th of October, 1704.

When they had got as far as Paddington they waited in expectation of seeing some person whom they might rob; and in this interval Smith looked over a stile, and, seeing the gallows at Tyburn, he was struck with a sense of the danger and ignominy to which he was exposing himself, and hereupon he would have advised his companion

to go home; but the latter refused so to do, and ridiculed Smith for his want of courage.

Soon afterwards one Mr. Birch rode down the road, whom they robbed of his mare; and on the following day Smith set out on this mare, and robbed the passengers in three stage-coaches near Epping Forest. On the next Wednesday he committed depredations on three other stage-coaches and a hackney-coach, on Hounslow Heath; and on the Saturday following he robbed three more coaches in the neighbourhood of St. Albans, in all which robberies he did not obtain booty to the amount of above twenty pounds.

On Monday, the 6th of November, Smith attacked a gentleman's carriage on Finchley Common; but being immediately pursued, he was taken into custody, and, being tried at the next sessions held at the Old Bailey, he was capitally convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of December, 1704, after confessing the justice of his sentence, and hoping that youth would take warning by his fatal example, and avoid those practices that had brought him to destruction.

It is very remarkable of this malefactor that he was a highwayman of only eight days' standing at the utmost: for the first robbery that he committed was on the 29th of Oct. and the last on the 6th of Nov.

A thousand sermons have been

preached on the brevity of human life; but surely none of them can strike the mind more forcibly than the conclusion to be drawn from the fate of this malefactor. What a short period from the first notorious violation of the law to the becoming an instance of its utmost rigour!

It does not very frequently happen that criminals are cut off after so very short a career as this man: but those who abandon themselves to the making unlawful depredations on their neighbours may be morally certain that they have but a short time to live, and even that this short period shall be filled with care, anxiety, and perturbation. What man can rest in his bed who lies down with the consciousness of having robbed his neighbour? Sleep is absolutely necessary to the support of the human frame; yet surely thieves can sleep only when overcome by drunkenness: and even then their sleep must be disturbed, and they must, in the language of the poet, 'fear each bush an officer.' A felon, convicted in his own mind, can scarcely take up a newspaper in which he will not read something respecting wretches in circumstances in some degree corresponding with his own.

What a dreadful life! and how easy to avoid it by a strict adherence to the maxim—'Do unto all men as you would they should do unto you.'

WILLIAM ELBY, EXECUTED FOR MURDER,

Was born in the year 1667 at Deptford, in Kent, and served his time with a blockmaker at Rotherhithe, during which he became acquainted with some women of ill fame. After the term of his apprenticeship was expired he kept

company with young fellows of such bad character that he found it necessary to enter on board a ship to prevent worse consequences. Having returned from sea, he enlisted as a soldier; but while in this situation he committed many small thefts, in

order to support the women with whom he was connected. At length he deserted from the army, assumed a new name, and prevailed on some of his companions to engage in housebreaking.

Detection soon terminated his career, and he was indicted for robbing the house of — Barry, Esq. of Fulham, and murdering his gardener. Elby, it seems, having determined on robbing the house, arrived at Fulham soon after midnight, and had wrenched open one of the windows, at which he was getting in, when the gardener, awaking, came down to prevent the intended robbery with a light in his hand. Elby, terrified lest he should be known, seized a knife, and stabbed him to the heart, of which wound the poor man fell dead at his feet. This done, he broke open a chest of drawers, and stole about two hundred and fifty pounds, with which he immediately repaired to his associates in London.

Though this man, naturally inclined to gaiety, dressed in a style much above people of his profession, yet, being at this period in possession of a greater sum of money than usual, those who knew him suspected that it could not have been honestly obtained; and, as every one was now talking of the horrid murder that had been committed at Fulham, the idea immediately occurred that it had been perpetrated by Elby, particularly as he began to abound in cash at this critical juncture.

Elby now used to frequent a public house in the Strand, where, being casually in company, the robbery and murder at Fulham became the subject of conversation. He turned pale, and, seeing one of the company go out of the room, was *so terrified that he immediately ran out of the house without paying*

the reckoning. Soon after he was gone, a person called for him; but, as he was not there, he said he would go to his lodgings. The landlord, enraged that the reckoning had not been paid, demanded where he lived, which being told, and remarked by the person who called, he was taken into custody the next day, and committed on suspicion of the robbery and murder.

On his trial he steadily denied the perpetration of the crimes with which he was charged, and his conviction would have been very doubtful, had not a woman with whom he cohabited become an evidence, and swore that he came from Fulham with the money the morning after the commission of the fact. Some other persons likewise deposed that they saw him come out of Mr. Barry's house on the morning the murder was committed; but, as they did not know what had happened, they had entertained no suspicion of him.

The jury deeming these circumstances evidence sufficient, Elby received sentence of death, and, having been executed at Fulham on the 13th of September, 1704, was hung in chains near the place where the crime was committed.

A few remarks on the conduct and fate of this malefactor may tend to the service of such of the rising generation whose passions may tempt them to deviate from the paths of virtue.

The first circumstance that occasioned Elby's being suspected was his abounding in money soon after the robbery was committed. It generally happens that thieves spend in extravagance what they have dishonestly obtained; so true is the old saying, 'Got over the devil's back, spent under his belly.' The circumstance of his taring

pale, and so hastily leaving the room at the public house where the robbery and murder were mentioned, marks, in a very striking manner, the agonizing tortures of a guilty conscience!

He was no sooner gone than a person called to inquire for him, whence a discovery was made of his lodgings, and he was taken into custody; and the most material witness against him on his trial proves to be a woman with whom he had cohabited. Hence let persons of dishonest lives learn that they are never safe even for a single moment,

and that those in whom they most confide may be the immediate instruments in the hand of Providence to bring them to condign punishment.

Elby's denying his principal guilt to the last moment proves that the mind dreads the fear of public censure, even at the moment the body is about to become an immediate prey to the worms. Hence let every man blush to be guilty of a crime, which, in his dying moments, he must necessarily blush to acknowledge.

EDWARD JEFFERIES,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER,

Was a gentleman by birth and education; and as such, until the commission of the crime for which he suffered, ever deported himself. His crime affords a melancholy instance of the fatal effects of illicit love and jealousy.

Edward Jefferies was born about the year 1666, at the Devizes, in Wiltshire. He served his clerkship to an eminent attorney in London, and afterwards carried on business on his own account; but his father dying while he was yet young, and leaving him a considerable fortune, he entered into too profuse a way of living, and embarked in the debaucheries of the age, which dissipated his substance.

Soon after he married a young lady of St. Albans, with whom he received a decent fortune, and might have lived in prosperity with her, but that he continued his former course of dissipation, which naturally occasioned a separation. He now associated with one Mrs. Elizabeth Torshell, with whom a Mr. Woodcock had likewise an illicit connexion. Jefferies and Woodcock had frequent debates respecting this

woman, but at length appeared to be reconciled, and dined together at the Blue Posts, near Pall Mall, on the day that the former committed the murder. After dinner they went into the fields near Chelsea, and a quarrel arising between them, respecting Mrs. Torshell, Jefferies drew his sword, and before Woodcock, who was left-handed, could draw his, he received a wound, of which he almost immediately died.

Woodcock had no sooner fallen than Jefferies rubbed some of his blood upon his (the deceased's) sword, took something out of his pocket, and then went towards Chelsea, where he had appointed to meet Mrs. Torshell. There were some boys playing in the fields who saw the body of the deceased, and a part of the transaction above mentioned. The body was removed to St. Martin's church-yard to be owned; and on the following day Mrs. Torshell came, among a crowd of other people, to see it, and was taken into custody on her saying she knew the murdered party, and expressed great concern at his fate.

Torshell's lodgings being search-

ed, a number of articles were found, which she owned Mr. Jefferies had brought thither, though they appeared to belong to Woodcock. On this Jefferies was also taken into custody, and both of them were committed to Newgate. Jefferies alleged in his defence that he was at another place at the time the murder was committed: he called several witnesses to prove an alibi; but, as these did not agree in the circumstances, he was convicted, and received sentence of death. Mrs. Torshell was acquitted.

During the time he lay under condemnation, he repeatedly denied having committed the murder, and exerted his utmost interest to obtain a reprieve, which was at length promised, through the medium of the Duke of Ormond. On the 19th of September, 1705, when the procession towards Tyburn had reached St. Giles's, a respite met him to defer his execution till the 21st of the same month, on which day he was executed, his guilt being too apparent. At the place of execution he again denied the fact, but said he freely forgave those who had injured him, and died in charity with all men. He betrayed no

symptoms of fear during the preparation for launching him into eternity.

From the case of the above wretched malefactor we may learn the dreadful consequence of living a dissipated life. If Mr. Jefferies had gone on in the way marked out for him by Providence, he might have lived in a high degree of credit and reputation; but he, like the prodigal son, wasted his substance in riotous living. However, on his marriage, he had a second chance for happiness; but, like the cock in the fable, he threw away the jewel which he had obtained in a wife.

From his connexion with Mrs. Torshell we may learn, that, as it was contrary to the laws of the church, and in defiance of those of morality, so connexions of that sort ought to be particularly avoided by married men of every rank of life. The instances are comparatively few where a connexion of this kind leads to murder: but, as every such connexion is a deviation from the laws of honour, they ought carefully to be shunned by every man who has a regard to his reputation in this world, or his happiness in the next.

JOHN SMITH,

CONVICTED OF ROBBERY.

THOUGH the crimes committed by this man were not particularly atrocious, nor his life sufficiently remarkable for a place in this work, yet the circumstances attending his fate at the place of execution are perhaps more singular than any we may have to record. He was the son of a farmer at Malton, about fifteen miles from the city of York, who bound him apprentice to a packer in London, with whom he served out his time, and afterwards

worked as a journeyman. He then went to sea in a merchant-man, after which he entered on board a man of war, and was at the famous expedition against Vigo; but on the return from that expedition he was discharged.

He had not been long disengaged from the naval service when he enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of guards commanded by Lord Cutts; but in this station he soon made bad connexions, and engaged with some

of his dissolute companions as a housebreaker.

On the 5th of December, 1705, he was arraigned on four different indictments, on two of which he was convicted. While he lay under sentence of death, he seemed very little affected with his situation, absolutely depending on a reprieve, through the interest of his friends.

However, an order came for his execution on the 24th day of the same month, in consequence of which he was carried to Tyburn, where he performed his devotions, and was turned off in the usual manner; but when he had hung near fifteen minutes, the people present cried out, 'A reprieve!' Hereupon the malefactor was cut down, and, being conveyed to a house in the neighbourhood, he soon recovered, in consequence of bleeding and other proper applications.

When he perfectly recovered his senses, he was asked what were his feelings at the time of execution; to which he repeatedly replied, in substance, as follows: 'That when he was turned off, he, for some time, was sensible of very great pain, occasioned by the weight of his body, and felt his spirits in a strange commotion, violently pressing upwards; that having forced their way to his head, he, as it were, saw a great blaze, or glaring light, which seemed to go out at his eyes with a flash, and then he lost all sense of pain. That after he was cut down, and began to come to himself, the blood and spirits, forcing themselves into their former channels, put him, by a sort of

pricking or shooting, to such intolerable pain that he could have wished those hanged who had cut him down.' From this circumstance he was called 'Half-hanged Smith.'

After this narrow escape from the grave, Smith pleaded to his pardon on the 20th of February; yet such was his propensity to evil deeds, that he returned to his former practices, and, being apprehended, was tried at the Old Bailey, for house-breaking; but some difficulties arising in the case, the jury brought in a special verdict, in consequence of which the affair was left to the opinion of the twelve judges, who determined in favour of the prisoner.

After this second extraordinary escape, he was a third time indicted; but the prosecutor happening to die before the day of trial, he once more obtained that liberty which his conduct showed he had not deserved.

We have no account what became of this man after this third remarkable incident in his favour; but Christian charity inclines us to hope that he made a proper use of the singular dispensation of Providence evidenced in his own person.

When once the mind has consented to the commission of sin, it is hard to be reclaimed. The memory of the pangs of an ignominious death could not deter this man from following the evil course he had begun. Thus, by giving way to small propensities, we imperceptibly go on to enormities which lead us to a shameful fate. Let us, therefore, at once resolve never to depart from the path of rectitude.

ROGER LOWEN, EXECUTED FOR MURDER,

Was a native of Hanover, where and educated in the principles of the Lutheran religion. His father being

hunter to the Duke of Zell, that prince sent young Lowen into France, to obtain the qualifications of a gentleman, and, on his return from his travels, he was one of the pages under the duke's master of the horse.

Coming over to England when he was between twenty and thirty years of age, the Duke of Shrewsbury patronised and procured him a place. Having thus obtained something like a settlement, he married a young English woman, with whom he lived in an affectionate manner for a considerable time; but in the year 1697, on his going abroad to attend King William at the treaty of Ryswick, he left Mrs. Lowen with her cousin, who was married to Mr. Richard Lloyd, of Turnham Green.

When Lowen returned from Holland, he became, with what justice we cannot say, extremely jealous of his wife, and he pretended to have received incontestable proof of her criminal conversation with Mr. Lloyd, for the murder of whom he was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 20th of September, 1706, and was tried by a jury composed equally of Englishmen and foreigners.

In the course of the evidence it appeared that, on the evening previous to the day on which the murder was committed, Lowen invited Lloyd and his wife to dine with him on the following day; that Mr. Lloyd, being obliged to go to Acton, did not come very early, at which Lowen expressed a considerable degree of uneasiness; that when he came, Lowen introduced him into the parlour with great apparent civility; that Mr. Lloyd put his sword in a corner of the room, *some time* after which Lowen *invited him into the garden, to see his plants; after which they came to-*

gether into the house, appearing to be good friends, and Lowen desired his wife to hasten the dinner; that while she went to obey his directions, Lowen drew Mr. Lloyd's sword a little way out of the scabbard, as if admiring it, and asked who was his cutler; and that while the deceased stood with his hand behind him, Lowen, stamping with his foot, drew the sword quite out of the scabbard, and stabbed Mr. Lloyd through the back; on which his wife (who was present at this horrid transaction) said to him, 'Speak to me, my dear;' but he was unable to do so; and having lifted up his eyes, groaned twice, and then expired.

Mr. Hawley, a justice of peace in the neighbourhood, passing by at the instant, Mrs. Lloyd acquainted him with what had happened; on which he examined the prisoner, who confessed his intention of having committed the murder sooner, and was only concerned lest he had not killed Mr. Lloyd.

The particulars respecting the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, Lowen was convicted, and received sentence of death: in consequence of which he was hanged at Turnham Green, on the 25th of October, 1706.

While he lay under sentence of death, he was attended by Messrs. Idzardi and Ruperti, two divines of his own country, who were assiduous to convince him of the atrociousness of the crime which he had committed; and he became a sincere penitent, confessing with his last breath the crime he had committed in shedding innocent blood.

From this melancholy narrative we may learn the fatal effects of jealousy, which generally judges ill of the party accused, and always renders the jealous person miserable. Mr. Lowen was jealous of his

wife; but we have no proof that there was any foundation for his suspicions. Hence let married men be taught not to indulge unwarrantable sentiments respecting that amiable sex who are the great sources of all the comforts of life. A man may be wretched in a thousand instances which occur in life; but let him retire to the wife of his bosom, and her advice will extricate him from many a difficulty, or her consolations sooth him to bear his burdens. There is great wisdom in the following proverbs of Solomon. 'Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband does safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil, all the days of her life. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.'

Jealousy is the most dangerous passion of the mind. It generally proceeds from the extravagance of love. That jealousy which is moved by fond and sincere affection may be distinguished from the extravagance resulting from meanness and suspicion. When proceeding from real love, it must be owing to the suspicion of levity in the object; which instantly conjures up a thousand frightful phantoms. We fear that the charms which have subdued us have made the same impression on the heart of another. This is generally the foundation of jealousy in men, and is, by the immortal Shakspeare, called 'a green-ey'd monster,' which, once gaining ascendancy,

'Farewell the tranquil mind! farewell content!'

JOHN HERMAN BRIAN,

EXECUTED FOR SETTING FIRE TO THE HOUSE OF MR. PERSUADE.

JOHN Herman Brian was a native of Dully, a village in the bailiwick of Morge, in the canton of Berne, in Switzerland, where he was born about the year 1683. He left Switzerland while very young, and went to Geneva, where he lived in the service of a gentleman above four years, and then made the tour of Italy with a person of fortune.

On his arrival in England, he lived in several reputable families for the space of about three years, and last of all, for about two months, in that of Mr. Persuade, when, being discharged, in about two days after he broke open, plundered, and burned, his dwelling-house, for which he was brought to trial, on the 16th of October, 1707.

It appeared in evidence that the house was made fast about ten at

night, when the family went to bed; that Mrs. Persuade had locked up her gold watch, etwée-case, chain, seventeen guineas, &c.; that waking about three in the morning she smelt a fire, on which she left her chamber, and found a lighted flambeau in the passage, which had burnt the boards; then opening a parlour-door the flames spread with such rapidity that the family had only time to preserve their lives.

A poor woman going by at the time, and seeing the smoke, knocked at the door to alarm the family, and at that instant saw a man come over the wall (supposed to be Brian), who said to her, 'Damn you, are you drunk! What do you do here, knocking at people's doors at this time?' and immediately he went away.

It likewise came out in evidence that the prisoner had offered to sell the etwee-case to Messrs. Stevenson and Acton, goldsmiths, for eight pounds; but they stopped it on suspicion that it was stolen, and, on inquiry, found to whom it belonged. The prisoner afterwards returning to demand it, they took him into custody, and being carried before a magistrate, and searched, a dagger and two pistols were found on him.

It appeared, from the testimony of other evidence, that when the prisoner quitted the service of Mr. Persuade, he took a lodging in Soho, but was not at home on the night that the facts were committed; and at noon on the following day he left this lodging, and took another in Spitalfields, to which he conveyed a trunk, a box, and a bundle, which were found to contain part of Mr. Persuade's effects.

It likewise appeared that he had sold a fowling-piece and two pistols, which were stolen from Mr. Persuade. On his trial he denied every thing that was alleged against him; asserting that he bought all the goods of a stranger; but, as he adduced nothing like proof in support of this assertion, the jury found him guilty, without the least hesitation.

While under sentence of death, he steadily denied being guilty of the offences of which he had been convicted, and reflected on the prosecutor, magistrates, witnesses, and jury; persisting in a declaration of his innocence to the last moment of his life: however, the circumstances against him were so unusually strong, that not the least credit could be given to his declaration.

He made repeated attempts to escape out of Newgate, by unscrewing and filing off his irons; but being detected, he was properly se-

cured till the time of his execution; and, when asked by the Ordinary of Newgate how he could waste his precious time in such fruitless attempts, he answered, that 'Life was sweet, and that any other man, as well as himself, would endeavour to save it if he could.'

He suffered in St. James's Street, before Mr. Persuade's house, on the 24th of October, 1707, and was hung in chains near the Gravel-pits, at Acton.

Some useful lessons may be learnt from the fate of this malefactor. It seldom happens that a robbery is committed but some of the stolen goods are offered to sale. In this case, if the intended purchaser be honest, detection almost always follows; for in general it is easy to judge, from appearance and other circumstances, whether the effects that a man offers are really his own property, or intrusted to his care by any person who has a right to dispose of them.

The crime of the malefactor before us is heightened by murder being added to robbery; for though in the event no person's life was lost, his intention was as criminal as if the whole neighbourhood had been reduced to ashes, and all the inhabitants had perished in the flames.

The view of Brian must have been to conceal the robbery by the fire. Hence let those who are tempted to do an evil act learn that the commission of a small crime as naturally leads to the perpetration of a greater as the waters of rivers flow into the sea. Let them learn to guard against the first inducement to an evil act; let them resist it with all the resolution in their power, and devoutly pray for that assistance against temptation which may be reasonably expected by those who ask it in the full confidence of faith.

JOHN HALL,

EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

From the humble avocation of a chimney-sweeper, this fellow became a notorious and daring thief.

He was remarkably distinguished in his time, on account of the number and variety of robberies in which he was concerned; and few thieves have been more the subject of public conversation.

Hall's parents were very poor people, living in Bishop's-head Court, Gray's-inn Lane, who put him out to a chimney-sweeper; but he had not been long in this employment before he quitted it, and commenced pickpocket, and was accounted very dexterous in that profession; but, notwithstanding this dexterity, he was frequently detected, and treated in the usual manner, by ducking in the horse-pond: he was likewise often sent to Bridewell, as a punishment for these offences.

Notwithstanding frequent punishments of this nature, he commenced shoplifter, and, in the month of January, 1682, he was convicted at the Old Bailey of stealing a pair of shoes; for which he was whipped at the cart's tail: but he had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he commenced housebreaker; and, being convicted of breaking open the house of Jonathan Bretail, he was sentenced to be hanged in the year 1700, but was afterwards pardoned, on condition of transporting himself, within six months, to some of the American plantations.

In consequence hereof he entered on board a ship, from which, however, he soon deserted, and engaged with his old accomplices; and they now took up the trade of robbing country waggons, and stealing portmanteaus from behind coaches. For an offence of this latter kind Hall

was tried and convicted, in the year 1702, and, being first burnt on the cheek, was committed close prisoner to Bridewell for two years.

Hall had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he joined with Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, and others of his dissolute companions, in breaking open the house of a baker, at Hackney; which burglary was attended with the following circumstances:

Having broke into the house soon after midnight, and the journeyman and apprentice being at work, the robbers tied them neck and heels, and threw them into the kneading trough, and one of the villains stood over them with a drawn sword, while the others went up stairs to rob the house; but the baker being unwilling to tell them where the money was, Hall seized a young child, a granddaughter of the old people, and swore he would thrust her into the oven if they did not make the discovery. Terrified at this circumstance, the old man told him where they might find his money, in consequence of which they robbed him of about seventy pounds.

Although this singular robbery was the subject of much conversation, yet the perpetrators of it were not taken into custody. Soon afterwards the house of Francis Saunders, a chairman, near St. James's, was broke open; and Saunders being informed that this robbery was committed by Hall and his companions, he observed these very men, as he was attending at St. James's Gate, about three in the morning; and informing the watchmen, they pursued them; on which Hall and one of his accomplices fired at a watchman, who was

wounded in the thigh. Hall escaped; his companions were apprehended and tried, but acquitted for want of evidence.

Hall was in custody in 1705, for breaking open the house of Richard Bartholomew; but he had been so frequently at the Old Bailey, that he was afraid of being tried by his name, and therefore changed it to that of Price: the evidence not being sufficient to convict him, he was again acquitted. Having obtained his liberty, he returned to his former practices, and in October, 1706, was indicted for stealing a handkerchief, in company with Arthur Chambers, but once more discharged in defect of evidence.

Repeated as these excesses were,

they made no impression on the mind of Hall, who was soon afterwards taken into custody, for a fact which he had reason to think would have put an end to his wicked career, wherefore he became an evidence against Chambers, Bell, and Fitch, three of his accomplices, and thus once more preserved his life.

After this he was concerned in breaking open the house of Captain Guyon, near Stepney, in company with Richard Low and Stephen Bunce, and stealing a considerable quantity of plate and other effects.

Of this offence the parties were found guilty, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 17th December, 1707.

STEPHEN BUNCE *and* RICHARD LOW,

ACCOMPLICES OF, AND EXECUTED WITH, JOHN HALL.

STEPHEN BUNCE was descended from a reputable family in the county of Kent, and educated by his grandfather, who had an estate of 800*l.* per annum, in the neighbourhood of Feversham. Bunce, being of a wild disposition, was sent to sea; and, having made two or three voyages, his ship was ordered to Plymouth, where, going on shore, he contracted an acquaintance with the daughter of a publican, whom he married; but his wife, who was a vulgar woman, soon making illicit connexions, he abandoned her, and repaired to London, where he frequented billiard-tables and gaming-houses, and having soon spent his money in bad company, he began to supply his extravagance by depredations on the public.

He continued his illicit practices till he was detected for stealing a sword from the side of an officer of the city trained bands, for which

offence he was tried in August, 1705, found guilty, and received sentence of death; but was afterwards pardoned on the condition that he should transport himself.

Having thus obtained his liberty, he immediately associated himself with his old companions, and committed several robberies, for one of which he thought he should be convicted: he therefore turned evidence against his accomplices, who were all executed.

Being once more at liberty, he entered into connexions with Jack Hall, with whom he and Low were apprehended for breaking open the house of Captain Guyon; and were tried, convicted, and executed for this offence. Bunce was not quite twenty-eight years of age when he was hanged. He confessed himself penitent; acknowledged the numerous robberies of which he had been guilty; but requested his friends not to petition for his life, as his suffer-

ing the rigour of the law would be the only proper atonement for his offences.

Richard Low was born near the Horse Ferry, Westminster, and sent to sea early in life; but, quitting the naval employment, he associated with a number of abandoned fellows, who subsisted by plundering the public. In 1704 he was ap-

prehended for house breaking, but acquitted for want of evidence. He was afterwards admitted an evidence against his accomplices, who were all executed on his testimony.

Having thus again obtained his liberty, he began to rob in company with Hall and Bunce; till at length his life paid the forfeit due to his repeated crimes.



Morgridge killing Lieutenant Cope.

JOHN MORGRIDGE, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

WE now present a dreadful instance of the effects of intoxication. This unfortunate man, who, through indulgence in this vice, met an untimely fate, was a native of Canterbury, whose ancestors had served the crown for upwards of two hundred years. He had been kettle-drummer to the first troop of horse-guards for a considerable time, and would have been promoted, had it not been for the following unfortunate quarrel:—A Mr. Cope, having

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obtained the rank of lieutenant in the army, invited several officers to dine with him at the Dolphin Tavern, in Tower Street; and one of the parties invited Morgridge likewise to go, assuring him that he would be made welcome on the part of Mr. Cope.

When dinner was over, Cope paid the reckoning, and then, each man depositing half-a-crown, Morgridge and others adjourned to the guard-room, to which place more

liquor was sent. They had not been long there before a woman of the town came in a coach, and asked for Captain Cope. Being introduced, she remained a short time, and then said, 'Who will pay for my coach?' Morgridge said 'I will;' and, having done so, he advanced to salute her; but she pushed him from her in a disdainful manner, and spoke to him in very abusive terms, which induced him to treat her with the same kind of language.

Morgridge's rudeness was resented by Cope, who took the woman's part, and a violent quarrel ensued between Cope and Morgridge, both of whom were intoxicated. This contest increased to such a degree, that they throw the bottles at each other; till at length Morgridge, inflamed with passion, drew his sword, and stabbed Cope, who instantly expired.

Morgridge, being taken into custody, was tried at the Old Bailey, July 5, 1706; but a doubt arising in the breast of the jury, whether he was guilty of murder or manslaughter, they brought in a special verdict, and the affair was left to be determined by the twelve judges.

The judges having consequently met at Serjeants' Inn, the case was argued before them by counsel; when they gave an unanimous opinion that he was guilty of wilful murder, because he did not kill Cope with the weapons he was originally using, but arose from his seat, and drew his sword, which was deemed to imply a malicious intention.

Morgridge, in the interim, made his escape from the Marshalsea Prison, and went into Flanders, where he remained about two years; but, *being uneasy* to revisit his native country, he imprudently came back to England, and, being apprehended,

received sentence of death, and suffered along with William Gregg, at Tyburn, on the 28th of April, 1708.

After conviction he was truly sensible of the crime of which he had been guilty, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and submitted to his fate with a devout wish that his misfortune might have its proper effect, in the preventing similar destruction happening to others.

This is but one instance of several that we shall have occasion to record of the fatal consequences arising from a connexion with women of abandoned characters: but for a woman of this cast, the two men who were thus sacrificed, the one to the impetuosity of passion, the other to the rigour of the law, might have lived, a credit to themselves, and an advantage to the community.

On this occasion it may not be improper to reflect on the horrid crime of seduction. The man who is guilty of seducing a modest young woman from the paths of virtue is, in some degree, an accessory to every crime she may thereafter commit.

Women in general are of natures more gentle, of dispositions more harmless, than men; yet, when the mind of a woman is once contaminated, she commonly becomes more vicious even than a man of bad character; and the amiable softness of the sex seems to be totally eradicated.

If a youth is tempted to a criminal connexion with a woman already debauched by another, let him reflect that he is but seeking to perpetuate that infamy she has acquired, and to render still baser a mind already contaminated. One would imagine that a slight degree of thought would be sufficient to restrain youth from connexions of

this nature; but, unhappily, the passions are more prevalent than reason, and the connexion is made before the youth has given himself time to think of its criminality.

May the case of Morgridge be an instructive one; and may those who are tempted to a commission of the crimes we would reprobate receive a timely warning therefrom.

WILLIAM GREGG,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

WILLIAM Gregg was born at Montrose, in Scotland, and, having received the common instructions in the grammar-school of that town, finished his education in the university of Aberdeen, and was intended by his friends for the study of divinity; but his inclination leading him to seek for advancement in the state, he came to London, and soon afterwards went abroad as secretary to the ambassador to the court of Sweden.

Gregg, during his residence abroad, debauched a Swedish lady, and was guilty of some other irregularities; in consequence of which the ambassador dismissed him from his service, and he was glad to embark for London in the first ship that sailed.

As soon as he arrived in London, he was engaged by Mr. Secretary Harley, to write dispatches; and letters of great importance were left unsealed, and perused by Gregg. As the account of this malefactor which was given by the Ordinary of Newgate is very superficial and unsatisfactory, we shall give the following extracts respecting him, exactly copied from Bishop Burnet's history:

'At this time two discoveries were made, very unlucky for Mr. Harley: Tallard wrote often to Chamillard, but he sent the letters open to the Secretary's office, to be perused and sealed up, and so be conveyed by the way of Holland. These were opened upon some suspicion in Holland, and it appeared

that one in the secretary's office put letters in them, in which, as he offered his service to the courts of France and St. Germain, so he gave an account of all transactions here. In one of these he sent a copy of the letter that the queen was to write in her own hand to the emperor; and he marked what parts were drawn by the secretary, and what additions were made to it by the lord treasurer. This was the letter by which the queen pressed the sending Prince Eugene into Spain; and this, if not intercepted, would have been at Versailles many days before it could reach Vienna.

'He who sent this wrote, that by this they might see what service he could do them, if well encouraged. All this was sent over to the Duke of Marlborough; and, upon search, it was found to be written by one Gregg; a clerk, whom Harley had not only entertained, but had taken into a particular confidence, without inquiring into the former parts of his life; for he was a vicious and a necessitous person, who had been secretary to the queen's envoy in Denmark, but was dismissed by him for his ill qualities. Harley had made use of him to get him intelligence, and he came to trust him with the perusal and sealing up of the letters which the French prisoners, here in England, sent over to France; and by that means he got into the method of sending intelligence thither. He, when seized on, either upon remorse or hopes of pardon, confessed all,

and signed his confession: upon that he was tried, and, pleading guilty, was condemned as a traitor, for corresponding with the queen's enemies.

'At the same time Valiere and Bara, whom Harley had employed as his spies to go often over to Calais, under the pretence of bringing him intelligence, were informed against, as spies employed by France to get intelligence from England, who carried over many letters to Calais and Boulogne, and, as was believed, gave such information of our trade and convoys, that by their means we had made our great losses at sea. They were often complained of upon suspicion, but they were always protected by Harley; yet the presumptions against them were so violent, that they were at last seized on, and brought up prisoners.'

The Whigs took such advantage of this circumstance, that Mr. Harley was obliged to resign; and his enemies were inclined to carry matters still further, and were resolved, if possible, to find out evidence enough to affect his life. With this view, the House of Lords ordered a committee to examine Gregg and the other prisoners, who were very assiduous in the discharge of their commission, as will appear by the following account written by the same author:

'The lords who were appointed to examine Gregg could not find out much by him: he had but newly begun his designs of betraying secrets, and he had no associates with him in it. He told them that all the papers of state lay so carelessly about the office that every one belonging to it, even the door-keepers, might have read them all. Harley's custom was to come to the office late on post-nights, and, after he had given his orders, and wrote his letters, he usually went away, and left all to be copied out when he

was gone. By that means he came to see every thing, in particular the queen's letter to the emperor. He said he knew the design on Toulon in May last, but he did not discover it; for he had not entered on his ill practices till October. This was all he could say.

'By the examination of Valiere and Bara, and of many others who lived about Dover, and were employed by them, a discovery was made of a constant intercourse they were in with Calais, under Harley's protection. They often went over with boats full of wool, and brought back brandy, though both the import and export were severely prohibited. They, and those who belonged to the boats carried over by them, were well treated on the French side at the governor's house, or at the commissary's: they were kept there till their letters were sent to Paris, and till returns could be brought back, and were all the while upon free cost. The order that was constantly given them was, that if an English or Dutch ship came up with them, they should cast their letters into the sea, but that they should not do it when French ships came up with them: so they were looked on by all on that coast as the spies of France. They used to get what information they could, both of merchant-ships, and of the ships of war that lay in the Downs, and upon that they usually went over; and it happened that soon after some of those ships were taken. These men, as they were Papists, so they behaved themselves insolently, and boasted much of their power and credit.

'Complaints had been often made of them, but they were always protected; nor did it appear that they ever brought any information of importance to Harley but once, when, according to what they swore, they

told him that Fourbin was gone from Dunkirk, to lie in wait for the Russian fleet, which proved to be true; he both went to watch for them, and he took the great part of the fleet. Yet, though this was a single piece of intelligence that they ever brought, Harley took so little notice of it, that he gave no advertisement to the admiralty concerning it. This particular excepted, they only brought over common news, and the Paris gazetteer. These examinations lasted for some weeks: when they were ended, a full report was made of them to the House of Lords, and they ordered the whole report, with all the examinations, to be laid before the queen.'

Gregg was convicted on the statute of Edward III. which declares it high treason 'to adhere to the king's enemies, or to give them aid either within or without the realm.'

Immediately after this conviction, both houses of parliament petitioned the queen that he might be executed, and he was accordingly hanged at Tyburn, with Morgridge, on the 28th of April, 1708.

Gregg, at the place of execution, delivered a paper to the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, in which he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, declared his sincere repentance of all his sins, particularly that lately committed against the queen, whose forgiveness he devoutly implored.

He likewise expressed his wish to make all possible reparation for the injuries he had done; begged pardon, in a particular manner, of Mr. Secretary Harley; and testified the perfect innocence of that gen-

tleman, declaring that he was no way privy, directly or indirectly, to his writing to France. He professed that he died an unworthy member of the Protestant church; and that the want of money to supply his extravagances had tempted him to commit the fatal crime which cost him his life.

Gregg's ruling passion appears to have been ambition; but this was so blended with a love of inordinate pleasures, that he was induced to have recourse to the most unwarrantable practices to supply his extravagances. In both his public situations he was in the regular way to have advanced himself in the state; and prudence, vigilance, and caution, and a strict adherence to the great rule of right, would, in all human probability, have gratified the favorite wish of his heart: but, permitting himself to be seduced by the violence of his own passions, he deviated from the path of honour, and became an object of public punishment and public detestation.

He acted, likewise, against his own principles; for, while he was corresponding with the enemy, and taking measures to subvert the government, he had no predilection in favour of the Pretender. On the contrary, he declared, while he was under sentence of death, that 'he never thought he had any right to the throne of these realms.'

How strangely preposterous, then, was the conduct of this man! From his untimely fate may youth be taught that the only road to substantial honour and happiness is through the path of virtue!

DEBORAH CHURCHILL,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

In this case we shall disclose one of the most consummate tricks ever

played by woman to defraud her creditors; and a more effectual me-

thod cannot be resorted to. It is a satisfaction, however, that, during the perusal of the fate of Deborah Churchill, we know that Fleet marriages have long been declared illegal; and therefore the artifice cannot now be so easily accomplished. Formerly, within the liberties of the Fleet, the clergy could perform the marriage rites with as little ceremony as at Gretna Green, where, to the disgrace of the British empire, an ignorant blacksmith, or a fellow equally mean and unfit, assumes this sacred duty of the church.

Though this woman's sins were great, yet we must admit some hardship in her suffering the utmost rigour of the law for the crime for which she was found guilty, but which, at the same time, is, in the eye of the law, great as in the immediate perpetrator of a murder. Here we deem it well to observe, that any person present while murder is committing, and though he may take no part in the commission of the crime, yet, unless he does his utmost to prevent, he is considered guilty, equal with him who might have given the fatal blow.

Deborah Churchill was born about the year 1678, in a village near Norwich. She had several children by her husband, Mr. Churchill; but her temper not being calculated to afford him domestic happiness, he repined at his situation, and destroyed himself by intoxication.

Deborah, after this event, came to London, and, being much too idle and too proud to think of earning a subsistence by her industry, she ran considerably in debt; and, in order to extricate herself from her incumbrances, had recourse to a method which was formerly as common as it is unjust. Going to a public house in Holborn, she saw a soldier, and asked him if he would

marry her. The man immediately answered in the affirmative, on which they went in a coach to the Fleet, where the nuptial knot was instantly tied.

Mrs. Churchill, whose maiden name is unknown, having obtained a certificate of her marriage, enticed her husband to drink till he was quite inebriated, and then gave him the slip, happy in this contrivance to screen herself from an arrest.

A little after this she cohabited with a young fellow named Hunt, with whom she lived more than six years. Hunt appears to have been a youth of a rakish disposition. He behaved very ill to this unhappy woman, who, however, loved him to distraction, and at length forfeited her life in consequence of the regard that she had for him.

One night, as Mr. Hunt and one of his associates were returning from the theatre, in company with Mrs. Churchill, a quarrel arose between the men, who immediately drew their swords; while Mrs. Churchill, anxious for the safety of Hunt, interposed, and kept his antagonist at a distance; in consequence of which, being off his guard, he received a wound, of which he died almost immediately.

No sooner was the murder committed than Hunt effected his escape, and, eluding his pursuers, arrived safely in Holland; but Mrs. Churchill was apprehended on the spot, and, being taken before a magistrate, was committed to Newgate.

November, 1708, at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, Mrs. Churchill was indicted as an accomplice on the act of the first year of King James I. called the statute of stabbing, by which it is enacted, that, 'if any one stabs another, who hath not at that time a weapon drawn, or hath not first stricken, the

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party who stabs is deemed guilty of murder, if the person stabbed dies within six months afterwards.'

Mrs. Churchill, being convicted, pleaded a state of pregnancy, in bar to her execution; and a jury of matrons, being impanelled, declared that they were ignorant whether she was with child or not. Hereupon the court, willing to allow all reasonable time in a case of this nature, respited judgment for six months; at the end of which time she received sentence of death, as there was no appearance of her being pregnant.

This woman's behaviour was extremely penitent; but she denied her guilt to the last moment of her life, having no conception that she had committed murder, because she did not herself stab the deceased. She suffered at Tyburn on the 17th of December, 1708.

From the fatal end of this woman we may gather the following lessons of instruction. Her unhappy tem-

per induced her first husband to have recourse to strong liquors, which killed him. Hence let married women learn to keep a guard on their tempers, and always to meet their husbands with smiles of complacency and good nature. Marriage is either a heaven or a hell upon earth, according to the behaviour of the parties towards each other.

Mrs. Churchill's attachment to Hunt is a strong proof of the capriciousness of the female mind; but she is only one instance amongst thousands of a woman proving a bad wife, and entertaining an affection for a man no way worthy her regard. We wish, for the honour of the fair sex, that these instances may daily decrease; that female virtue may triumph through the land; and that every departure from it may be deemed as criminal in the eyes of the sex in general as it undoubtedly is in the sight of heaven.

CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF JANE YOUNG.

This is a very singular case, and will excite different opinions respecting this unhappy man's commission of the deed for which he was executed.

He was the son of a miller at Westbury Green, in Surrey, who apprenticed him at Godalming. When his time was expired, he lived in several situations, and afterwards took a malthouse at Shalford, when his aunt became his housekeeper, and he acquired a moderate sum of money by his industry.

He now paid his addresses to Jane Young, and it was generally supposed he intended to marry her. The last time he was seen in her company was on the evening of the 5th of October, 1703; from which

day she was not heard of for a considerable time, on which suspicions arose that Slaughterford had murdered her.

About a month afterwards the body of the unfortunate girl was found in a pond, with several marks of violence on it; and the public suspicion being still fixed on Slaughterford, he voluntarily surrendered himself to two justices of the peace, who directed that he should be discharged; but, as he was still accused by his neighbours, he went to a third magistrate, who, agreeable to his own solicitations, committed him to the Marshalsea Prison; and he was tried at the next assizes at Kingston, and acquitted.

The majority of his neighbours,

however, still insisted that he was guilty, and prevailed on the relations of the deceased to bring an appeal for a new trial; towards the expense of which many persons subscribed, as the father of Jane Young was in indigent circumstances.

During the next term he was tried, by a Surrey jury, in the Court of Queen's Bench, before Lord Chief Justice Holt. the appeal being lodged in the name of Henry Young, brother and heir to the deceased.

The evidence given on this second trial was the same in substance as on the first; yet so different were the sentiments of the two juries, that Slaughterford was now found guilty, and received sentence of death. It may be proper to mention the heads of some of the depositions, that the reader may judge of the propriety of the verdict.

Elizabeth Chapman, the mistress of Jane Young, deposed that, when the young woman left her service, she said she was going to be married to the prisoner, that she had purchased new clothes on the occasion, and declared that she was to meet him on the Sunday following. That the deponent sometimes afterwards inquired after Jane Young, and, asking if she was married, was informed that she had been seen in the company of Slaughterford, but no one could tell what was become of her since, and that he himself pretended he knew nothing of her, but thought she had been at home with Mrs. Chapman; which had induced this witness to believe that some mischief had befallen her.

Other witnesses proved that Jane Young was in company with the prisoner on the night that the murder was committed; and one man swore that, at three in the morning, he met a man and woman on a common, about a quarter of a mile from

the place where the body was found; that the man wore light-coloured clothes, as it was proved the prisoner had done the preceding day; and that soon after he passed them he heard a shrieking, like the voice of a woman.

It was sworn by a woman, that, after the deceased was missing, she asked Slaughterford what was become of his lady: to which he replied, 'I have put her off; do you know of any girl that has any money? I have got the way of putting them off now.'

It was deposed by another woman that, before the discovery of the murder, she said to Mr. Slaughterford, 'What if Jane Young should lay such a child to you as mine is here?' at which he sighed, and said, 'It is now impossible;' and cried till the tears ran down his cheeks.

In contradiction to this, the aunt of Mr. Slaughterford, and a young lad who lived in the house, deposed that the prisoner lay at home on the night that the murder was committed.

Slaughterford, from the time of conviction to the very hour of his death, solemnly declared his innocence; and, though visited by several divines, who urged him by all possible arguments to confess the fact, yet he still persisted that he was not guilty. He was respited from the Wednesday till Saturday, in which interim he desired to see Mr. Woodroof, a minister of Guildford, from which it was thought he would make a confession; but what he said to him tended only to confirm his former declarations.

As soon as the executioner had tied him up, he threw himself off, having previously delivered to the sheriff a paper, containing the following solemn declaration:

'Guildford, July 9, 1709.

'Being brought here to die, so-

According to the sentence passed upon me at the Queen's Bench bar, for a crime of which I am wholly innocent, I thought myself obliged to let the world know, that they may not reflect on my friends and relations, whom I have left behind me much troubled for my fatal end, that I know nothing of the death of Jane Young, nor how she came by her death, directly or indirectly, though some have been pleased to cast reflections on my aunt. However, I freely forgive all my enemies, and pray to God to give them a due sense of their errors, and in his due time to bring the truth to light. In the mean time, I beg every one to forbear reflecting on my dear mother, or any of my relations, for my unjust and unhappy fall, since what I have here set down is truth, and nothing but the truth, as I expect salvation at the hands of Almighty God; but I am heartily sorry that I should be the cause of persuading her to leave her dame, which is all that troubles me. As witness my hand this 9th day of July.'

We have already observed that the case of Slaughterford is very extraordinary. We see that he surrendered himself to the justices when he might have ran away; and common sense tells us that a murderer would endeavour to make his escape; and we find him a second time surrendering himself, as if

anxious to wipe away the stain on his character. We find him tried by a jury of his countrymen, and acquitted; then again tried, on an appeal, by another jury of his neighbours, found guilty, condemned, and executed. Here it should be observed, that after conviction on an appeal, which rarely happens, the king has no power to pardon; probably, had Slaughterford been found guilty by the first jury, as his case was dubious, he would have received royal mercy. Some of the depositions against him seem very striking; yet the testimony in his favour is equally clear. There appears nothing in the former part of his life to impeach his character; there is no proof of any animosity between him and the party murdered; and there is an apparent contradiction in part of the evidence against him. He is represented by one female witness as sneering at and highly gratified with the murder; while another proves him extremely affected, and shedding tears on the loss of Jane Young. The charitable reader must therefore be inclined to think this man was *innocent*, and that he fell a sacrifice to the prejudices (laudable, perhaps) of his incensed neighbours. He was visited while under sentence of death by a number of divines, yet he dies with the most sacred averment of his innocence.

GRACE TRIPP,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

In the perpetration of this horrid murder, we are greatly shocked to find base perfidy added to great cruelty in the breast of a female. In order to support the extravagance of a villain with whom this wretched woman had secret amours, she betrayed her trust, and, in hopes of concealing the crime, murdered her fellow-servant.

Grace Tripp was a native of Barton, in Lincolnshire, and, after living as a servant at a gentleman's house in the country, she came to London, was some time in a reputable family, and then procured a place in the house of Lord Torrington.

During her stay in this last service she became connected with a

man named Peters, who persuaded her to be concerned in robbing her master's house, promising to marry her as soon as the fact should be perpetrated. Hereupon it was concerted between them that she should let Peters into the house in the night, and that they should join in stealing and carrying off the plate.

Peters was accordingly admitted at the appointed time, when all the family, except the housekeeper, were out of town; but this housekeeper, hearing a noise, came into the room just as they had packed up the plate; on which Peters seized her, and cut her throat, while Tripp held the candle. This being done, they searched the pockets of the deceased, in which they found about thirty guineas; with which, and the plate, they hastily decamped, leaving the street-door open.

This shocking murder and robbery became the general subject of conversation, and no steps were left unattempted in order to apprehend the offenders, who were taken in a few days, when, Peters having been admitted an evidence for the crown, Grace Tripp was convicted, and executed at Tyburn on the 17th of March, 1710, at the age of nineteen years.

While she lay under sentence of death she entertained an idea that she ought not to suffer, because she did not actually commit the murder with her own hands, but only stood by while the deed was perpetrated. She confessed that an ambition of being deemed a fine lady prevailed on her to admit Peters into the house, as she thought the stolen effects would produce suffi-

cient to dignify her with that title.

From the fate of this unhappy deluded girl two or three reflections naturally occur, not unworthy the notice of the public. In the first place, families that go out of town for the summer should never leave their plate in the care of one or two servants, particularly of the female sex; for this circumstance is at once an encouragement to robbers, and a temptation to the servants themselves to become dishonest.

The admission of Peters as an evidence against the girl, though he was clearly an offender of the first magnitude, should teach young people in general the danger of making unlawful connexions, and the folly of trusting to the fidelity of a brother thief. In this particular case it was necessary that one of the parties should be an evidence in order to convict the other; and Peters was undoubtedly pitched upon, to teach servants what an enormous crime it is to betray the trust reposed in them by their masters. We have seldom an instance of a servant convicted of robbing his or her master but they are severely punished; and indeed it is proper such convicts should undergo the utmost rigour of the law.

The folly of this young woman, in listening to the addresses of a man who persuaded her to rob her master, is truly astonishing! From hersad example let all young women be taught that there is no prospect of that person making a good husband who is not first of all an *honest man*. Let them remember that 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.'

DANIEL DEMAREE, GEO. PURCHASE, & FRANCIS WILLIS,

TRIED FOR HIGH TREASON.

DANIEL Demaree was waterman to Queen Anne, whose Whig minis-

try having been turned out of, or, in the modern phrase, having resigned

their places, the Tory ministry succeeded them, and encouraged a young divine, named Henry Sacheverell, to inflame the passions of the public, by preaching against the settlement made at the Revolution, and inculcating all those doctrines which were then held as the favorite tenets of what was called the High Church party.

Sacheverell was a man of abilities, and eminently possessed of those kind of talents which are calculated to inspire such sentiments as the preacher wished to impress his auditors with. The doctor's discourses accordingly tended to instigate the people against the house of Hanover, and to insinuate the right of the Pretender to the throne of these realms. This caused such a general commotion, that it became necessary to bring him to trial in some way; and, contrary to all former practice respecting a man of his rank, he was tried before the House of Peers, and was silenced for three years, upon conviction.

But so excited were the passions of the populace in consequence of his insinuations, that they almost adored him as a prophet; and some of them were led to commit outrages which gave rise to several trials, particularly that of Daniel Demaree, who, on the 19th of April, 1710, was indicted for being concerned with a multitude of men, to the number of five hundred, armed with swords and clubs, to levy war against the queen.

A gentleman deposed that, going through the Temple, he saw some thousands of people, who had attended Dr. Sacheverell from Westminster Hall; that some of them said they would pull down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house that night; others differed as to the time of doing it; but all agreed on the act, and the meeting-house was demo-

lished on the following night. Here it should be observed that Dr. Burgess and Mr. Bradbury were two dissenting ministers, who had made themselves conspicuous by preaching in opposition to Sacheverell's doctrine.

Captain Orrill swore, that, on the 1st of March, hearing that the mob had pulled down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, he resolved to go among them, to do what service he could to government by making discoveries. This witness, going to Mr. Bradbury's meeting, found the people plundering it, who obliged him to pull off his hat. After this he went to Lincoln's-inn Fields, where he saw a bonfire made of some of the materials of Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, and saw the prisoner, who twirled his hat, and said,—'Damn it, I will lead you on—we will have all the meeting-houses down—High Church and Sacheverell, huzza!'

It was proved by another evidence, that the prisoner having headed part of the mob, some of them proposed to go to the meeting-house in Wild Street; but this was objected to by others, who recommended going to Drury Lane, saying 'that meeting-house was worth ten of that in Wild Street.'

Joseph Collier swore that he saw the prisoner carry a brass sconce from Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, and throw it into the fire in Lincoln's-inn Fields, huzzing, and crying, 'High Church and Sacheverell.' There was another evidence to prove the concern that the prisoner had in these illegal acts; and several persons appeared in his behalf; but as, in their testimony, they contradicted each other, the jury could not credit their evidence, but brought in a special verdict.

George Purchase was indicted for

levying war against the queen, &c. in the same manner that Demaree had been. On this trial Captain Orril deposed, that, after seeing Dr. Burgess's meeting-house demolished, and a fire made in Lincoln's inn Fields with some of the materials thereof, he met a party of the guards, whom he directed to go to Drury Lane, where a bonfire was made of the pews and various utensils; and that there was a great mob, which was dispersed by the guards: that the prisoner was very active, pushing at the breasts of the horses with a drawn sword; that this evidence asked what he meant, telling him that in opposing the guard he opposed the queen, and would have persuaded him to put up his sword, and go home; but, instead of taking this advice, he replied, 'D—n you, who are you? for High-Church and Sacheverell, or no? I am, G—d d—n them all,' meaning the guards, 'for I am as good a man as any of them all:' that he then called to the mob 'Come on, come on, boys; I'll lead you on, I am for High Church and Sacheverell, and I'll lose my life in the cause.'

Captain Orril farther deposed, that after this the prisoner ran resolutely with his sword in his hand, and made a full pass at the officer who commanded the guards ; and, if one of the guards had not given a spring and beat down his sword, he would have run the officer through the left flank : that the prisoner now retired a little lower, and the guards had by this time dispersed the mob, having knocked down forty or fifty of them in the action.

Richard Russell, one of the guards, deposed that they were ordered by the sergeant to march into Drury Lane, and to return *their bayonets and draw their swords; that when they came to*

Drury Lane, there was a bonfire with a large mob about it; that near the fire the horse were all drawn up into one line, with their tails against the wall, that none of the mob might come behind; that the prisoner then stood in the middle of the lane, huzzaing, and came up, and would have thrust himself between the horses, but the guards beat him off with the flats of their swords.

The prisoner produced some witnesses ; but, as what they said did not contradict the testimony of the evidences against him, their depositions had no weight. The jury were satisfied with the proofs that had arisen ; but, having a doubt respecting the points of law, they brought in a special verdict.

At the same time and place Francis Willis was tried for assisting in demolishing the meeting-house of Mr. Bradbury, in Fetter Lane, and burning the materials at a bonfire in Holborn; but was acquitted for want of sufficient evidence against him.

The verdicts respecting Damaroo and Purchase being left special, their cases were argued in the Court of King's Bench in Westminster Hall, the following term, before the Lord Chief Justice Parker and the other judges; when, though every artifice of the law was made use of in their behalf, they were adjudged to be guilty; in consequence of which they received sentence of death, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 15th of June, 1710.

From the fate of these unhappy men we may learn the extreme folly of the lower orders of people interesting themselves in religious and political disputes. These offenders were watermen to the queen; but their loyalty to their sovereign and a proper regard to themselves equally

called on them to discharge the duties of their station with punctuality, and to leave the management of the church and state to those to whom they immediately belonged.

It is well known that, towards the close of the reign of Queen Anne, political disputes were carried to a very unusual height in this kingdom. The body of the people were divided into two great factions, known by the names of High Church and Low Church: but, though the church was the word, religion was almost out of the question; and the principal object of dispute was of a political kind. The question was, whether the house of Hanover or the family of Stuart should sway the sceptre of these kingdoms? But it is astonishing to think that, even at that period, any son of the church of England could be so deluded as to think that a Catholic prince, of an obnoxious family, proscribed by the laws of the land, could be a proper sovereign for a Protestant people. The supposition carries absurdity on the face of it; yet such was the violence of the passions of the people, that the Pretender had nearly half as many friends in the kingdom as the rightful heir to the throne!

With regard to the malefactors in question, their offence was of the most atrocious nature. Every man

has an equal right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. It was therefore in a high degree criminal to demolish the meeting-houses of the dissenting ministers. We should have no more spleen against a man for differing from us in religious sentiments, than for being taller, or shorter, or of a different complexion from ourselves. It was a wise saying of a celebrated writer, that 'I would no more quarrel with a man for his differing in sentiments from me, than I would for the colour of his eyebrows.'

The operations of the mind, being free by nature, ought to be allowed the most unlimited scope. A good Protestant will not quarrel with a Roman Catholic for the peculiarities of his worship: he will only pity him for those parts of it which he thinks absurd, and endeavour to regulate his own worship by what he deems a purer standard.

Upon the whole, the fate of these malefactors ought to teach us obedience to our superiors, love to our neighbours, and duty to our God. There can be no peace of mind expected by those who do not live in the discharge of their duty; while those who perform it may reasonably hope for the serene comforts of a good conscience in this world, and console themselves with the hope of immortal happiness in the next.

RICHARD THORNHILL, ESQ.

CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER, IN KILLING SIR CHOLMONDELEY DEERING IN A DUEL.

Of all the vices which disgrace our age and nation that of duelling is one of the most ridiculous, absurd, and criminal. Ridiculous, as it is a compliance with a custom that would plead fashion in violation of the laws of our country:

absurd, as it produces no test by which to determine on the merits of the point in dispute; for the aggrieved is equally liable to fall with the aggressor: and criminal, (criminal indeed in the highest degree!) as it arises from pre-deter-

mined murder on each side. Gentlemen talk of the dignity of honour, and the sacredness of character, without reflecting that there can be no honour in deliberate murder, no purity of character in a murderer!

The man who sends a challenge to another does but say, in other words, 'I am a professed murderer. I mean to send you into the other world, with all your imperfections on your head. But I am a man of honour—though I will not take a purse, I will cut a throat. I will do every thing in my power to deprive you of life, and to make your friends and relations wretched for life. If I fall by your hands my friends will be equally miserable:—but no matter—the laws of honour demand that we should be murderers, and we are both too wise to obey the laws of our God.'

Horrid practice! disgraceful to our country, and equally contrary to all Divine and human institutions!—It is to be hoped the time will come when the legislature shall decree that every man who is base enough to send a challenge shall be doomed to suffer death as a murderer. Let no fear be entertained that this can derogate from our national character of genuine courage. Nothing is more true than the observation of the poet, that

'Towards are cruel, but the brave
Love mercy, and delight to save.'

This abhorred and sanguinary

practice offers to the understanding, in the influence it is found to have over strong and enlightened minds, a paradox most bewildering and humiliating. While reason and common sense exclaim against the folly of duelling—while religion, in its loudest voice, condemns its iniquity—while the laws of a nation load it with penalties, and rank it as a foul crime—while the popular cry is loud against its mischiefs, and when no one is hardy enough to defend it; we daily hear that men of the first rank in society make this appeal to violence, fearless of legal prevention and legal penalties. Husbands and fathers leave their wives and children in their morning's slumber, steal from their pillows to obey the false dictates of honour, and too often, as their families rise from their beds, are they presented with the bleeding bodies of their protectors. We see, too, seconds in this scene of blood, with daring effrontery, retailing in the public prints the particulars of the cruel encounter. In some of the republican states of America these outrages to all the parties are punished with confiscation of their lands, and banishment, even on proof of sending or accepting of a challenge.* In many other parts of the world, duelling meets with severer punishment than that inflicted by the laws of England. The lands of the murderer, at least,

* Owing to this severe but wholesome law, Americans appear more eager than otherwise to settle their quarrels by duel. To accomplish their inhuman and unlawful purpose, they generally journey into another state, where, as each enact their own laws, the murderers generally escape punishment, and save their lands, which cannot be confiscated for an offence committed out of their own state's jurisdiction. Sometimes they travel to Canada, that they may indulge their malice in violation of the British laws. An instance of this kind is thus related in an American paper:

'Blaise, Blake and Dix, residents at Boston, recently determined to settle an affair of honour by duel. They repaired to Canada. The distance was to be ten paces the first time, and to approximate two paces till one or the other fell. They both fired together, and Blake's ball entered the lungs of Dix. Dix's ball grazed the cheek of Blake. Before Dix fell, he said to his second, "Give me the other pistol, that I may hit him, for I find he has wounded me." The second, finding he was wounded, stepped up to support him, but he fell, and immediately expired.'

should be divided between the injured country and the miserable family of the fallen. The English laws prepare an adequate punishment for every offence except duelling, for which the murderer too often escapes with impunity.

In addition to the horrors which this practice, unworthily styled 'fashionable satisfaction,' creates, it generally generates among friends of long standing. Such were, previous to this fatal quarrel, Sir Cholmondeley Deering and Mr. Thornhill, who had dined together on the 7th of April, 1711, in company with several other gentlemen, at the Toy, at Hampton Court, where a quarrel rose, which occasioned the unhappy catastrophe that afterwards occurred.

During the quarrel Sir Cholmondeley struck Mr. Thornhill, and a scuffle ensuing, the wainscot of the room broke down, and Thornhill falling, the other stamped on him, and beat out some of his teeth. The company now interposing, Sir Cholmondeley, convinced that he had acted improperly, declared that he was willing to ask pardon; but Mr. Thornhill said, that asking pardon was not a proper retaliation for the injury that he had received; adding, 'Sir Cholmondeley, you know where to find me.' Soon after this the company broke up, and the parties went home in different coaches, without any farther steps being taken towards their reconciliation.

On the 9th of April, Sir Cholmondeley went to the coffee-house at Kensington, and asked for Mr. Thornhill, who not being there, he went to his lodgings, and the servant showed him to the dining-room; to which he ascended with a brace of pistols in his hands, and soon afterwards Mr. Thornhill coming to him, asked him if he

would drink tea, which he declined, but drank a glass of small beer.

After this the gentlemen ordered a hackney-coach, in which they went to Tothill Fields, and there advanced towards each other in a resolute manner, and fired their pistols almost in the same moment.

Sir Cholmondeley, being mortally wounded, fell to the ground; and Mr. Thornhill, after lamenting the unhappy catastrophe, was going away, when a person stopped him, told him he had been guilty of murder, and took him before a justice of the peace, who committed him to prison.

On the 18th of May, 1711, Richard Thornhill, Esq. was indicted at the Old Bailey sessions for this murder. In the course of this trial the above recited facts were proved, and a letter was produced, of which the following is a copy:

'April 8th, 1711.

'Sir—I shall be able to go abroad to-morrow morning, and desire you will give me a meeting with your sword and pistols, which I insist on. The worthy gentleman who brings you this will concert with you the time and place. I think Tothill Fields will do well; Hyde Park will not, at this time of year, being full of company.

'I am

'Your humble Servant,

'RICHARD THORNHILL.'

Mr. Thornhill's servant swore that he believed this letter to be his master's hand-writing; but Mr. Thornhill hoped the jury would not pay any regard to this testimony, as the boy had acknowledged in court that he never saw him write.

Mr. Thornhill called several witnesses to prove how ill he had been used by Sir Cholmondeley; that he had languished some time of the

wounds he had received, during which he could take no other sustenance than liquids, and that his life was in imminent danger.

Several persons of distinction testified that Mr. Thornhill was of a peaceable disposition, and that, on the contrary, the deceased was of a remarkably quarrelsome temper. On behalf of Mr. Thornhill, it was farther deposed, that Sir Cholmondeley being asked if he came by his hurt through unfair usage, he re-

plied, 'No: poor Thornhill! I am sorry for him; this misfortune was my own fault, and of my own seeking: I heartily forgive him, and desire you all to take notice of it, that it may be of some service to him; and that one misfortune may not occasion another.'

The jury acquitted Mr. Thornhill of the murder, but found him guilty of manslaughter; in consequence of which he was burnt in the hand.

ELIZABETH MASON,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HER GODMOTHER.

This wretched woman was born at Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire, and, while very young, was conveyed by her friends to Sutton, near Peterborough, in Northamptonshire; from whence, at the age of seven years, she was brought to London by Mrs. Scoles, who told her she was her godmother; and with this lady and her sister, Mrs. Cholwell, she lived, and was employed in household work; but, having conceived an idea that she should possess the fortune of her mistresses on their death, she came to the horrid resolution of removing them by poison.

On Thursday in Easter-week, 1712, being sent of an errand, she went to a druggist's shop, where she bought a quantity of yellow arsenic, on the pretence that it was to kill rats. On the following morning she mixed this poison with some coffee, of which Mrs. Scoles drank, and soon afterwards, finding herself extremely ill, said her end was approaching, and expired the next day in great agonies. Mrs. Cholwell receiving no injury from what little coffee she drank, the girl determined to renew her attempt to poison her; in consequence of which she went again to the same

shop about a fortnight afterwards, and bought a second quantity of arsenic, which she put into some water-gruel prepared for Mrs. Cholwell's breakfast, on the following morning. It happening, providentially, that the gruel was too hot, the lady put it aside some time to cool, during which time most of the arsenic sunk to the bottom. She then drank some of it, found herself very ill, and, observing the sediment at the bottom of the basin, sent for her apothecary, who gave her a great quantity of oil to drink, by the help of which the poison was expelled.

Unfavorable suspicions now arising against Elizabeth Mason, she was taken into custody, and, being carried before two justices of the peace, on the 30th of April, she confessed the whole of her guilt, in consequence of which she was committed to Newgate.

On the 6th of June, 1712, she was indicted for the murder of Jane Scoles, by mixing yellow arsenic with her coffee; and, pleading guilty to the indictment, she received sentence of death, in consequence of which she was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of June, 1712.

In the case of this malefactor we see, in a striking light, the fatal consequences of lying; for if, after she had first defrauded her mistresses, she had possessed grace sufficient to have acknowledged her crime, she would probably have been forgiven, and her repentance would have secured her peace of mind during her future life: but the concealing her faults by lying naturally led her to the commission

of greater crimes, which ended in her final destruction. Of all crimes lying is one of the meanest, and ought to be studiously avoided by those who wish to be happy in this world or the next. Very true is the observation of the poet:

'But liars we can never trust,
Tho' they should speak the thing that's
true,
And he that does one fault at first,
And lies to hide it, makes it two.'



Duel between the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Mohun.

COLONEL JOHN HAMILTON,

CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER, AS SECOND IN A DUEL BETWEEN THE
DUKE OF HAMILTON AND LORD MOHUN.

No occurrence, short of a national misfortune, at this time engaged the public equal to the memorable duel between the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Mohun; and no crime of this nature was ever committed with more sanguinary

dispositions. The principals murdered each other, and Mr. Hamilton was one of the seconds.

John Hamilton, Esq. of St. Martin's in the Fields, was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey on the 11th of September,

1712, for the murder of Charles Lord Mohun, Baron of Oakhampton, on the 15th of November preceding; and at the same time he was indicted for abetting Charles Lord Mohun, and George Macartney, Esq. in the murder of James Duke of Hamilton and Brandon; and having pleaded 'not guilty' to these indictments, the evidence proceeded to give their testimony, in substance as follows:—

Rice Williams, footman to Lord Mohun, proved that his master having met the Duke of Hamilton at the chambers of a master in chancery, on Thursday the 13th of November, a misunderstanding arose between them respecting the testimony of an evidence. That when his lord came home at night, he ordered that no person should be admitted to speak with him the next morning except Mr. Macartney. That on the Saturday morning, about seven o'clock, this evidence, having some suspicion that mischief would ensue, went towards Hyde Park, and, seeing the Duke of Hamilton's coach going that way, he got over the Park-wall; but, just as he arrived at the place where the duellists were engaged, he saw both the noblemen fall, and two gentlemen near them, whom he took to be the seconds; one of whom he knew to be Mr. Macartney, and the other (but he could not swear it was the prisoner) said 'We have made a fine piece of work of it.'

The waiters at two different taverns proved that the deceased noblemen and their seconds had been at those taverns; and, from what could be collected from their behaviour, it appeared that a quarrel had taken place, and that a duel was in agitation; and some of *the duke's servants and other witnesses deposed to a variety of par-*

ticulars, all which tended to the same conclusion.

But the evidence who saw most of the transaction was William Morris, a groom, who deposed that, 'as he was walking his horses towards Hyde Park, he followed a hackney-coach with two gentlemen in it, whom he saw alight by the Lodge, and walk together towards the left part of the ring, where they were about a quarter of an hour, when he saw two other gentlemen come to them; that, after having saluted each other, one of them, who he was since told was the Duke of Hamilton, threw off his cloak, and one of the other two, who he now understands was Lord Mohun, his surtout coat, and all immediately drew; that the duke and lord pushed at each other but a very little while, when the duke closed, and took the lord by the collar, who fell down and groaned, and the duke fell upon him; that just as Lord Mohun was dropping, he saw him lay hold of the duke's sword, but could not tell whether the sword was at that time in his body; nor did he see any wound given after the closing, and was sure Lord Mohun did not shorten his sword. He declared he did not see the seconds fight, but they had their swords in their hands, assisting their lords.'

Paul Boussier, a surgeon, swore that, on opening the body of the Duke of Hamilton, he found a wound between the second and third ribs, which entered into the body, inclining to the right side, which could not be given but by some push from above.

Henry Amie, a surgeon, swore that he found the Duke of Hamilton had received a wound by a push, which had cut the artery and small tendon of his right arm; another very large one in his right leg;

a small one in his left leg, near the instep; and a fourth in his left side, between the second and third ribs, which ran down into his body most forward, having pierced the skirt of his midriff, and gone through his canal; but that the wound in his arm caused his so speedy death; and that he might have lived two or three days with the wound in his breast, which wound could not be given but by an arm that reached over, or was above him.

He further deposed, that he also viewed the Lord Mohun's body, and found that he had a wound between the short ribs, quite through his belly, and another about three inches deep in the upper part of his thigh; a large wound, about four inches wide, in his groin, a little higher, which was the cause of his immediate death; and another small wound on his left side; and that the fingers of his left hand were cut.

The defence made by the prisoner was, that 'the duke called him to go abroad with him, but he knew not any thing of the matter till he came into the field.'

Some Scottish noblemen, and other gentlemen of rank, gave Mr. Hamilton a very advantageous character, asserting that he was brave, honest, and inoffensive; and the jury, having considered of the affair, gave a verdict of 'manslaughter;' in consequence of which the prisoner prayed the benefit of the statute, which was allowed him.

At the time the lives of the above-mentioned noblemen were thus unfortunately sacrificed, many persons thought they fell by the hands of the seconds; and some late writers on the subject have affected to be of the same opinion: but nothing appears in the written or printed accounts of the transaction, nor did

any thing arise on the trial, to warrant so ungenerous a suspicion; it is therefore but justice to the memory of all the parties to discredit such insinuations.

But here a reflection will naturally arise, that we hope may be of service to our readers of superior rank. If all duellists are, as common sense seems to intimate, murderers, in what light are we to consider their seconds? Certainly in no other than as accessories before the fact. The law says, and with great justice, that accessories in case of murder shall be deemed principals.

With regard to the particular case in question, if we believe the plea of the prisoner, we cannot consider him as an accessory, because he was ignorant of the intention of the duke.

Be this as it may, it is much to be lamented that we have not laws of force sufficient to put an effectual stop to the horrid practice of duelling—a practice which had its rise in the ferocious manners of the most barbarous ages, and is a disgrace to any people that pretend to be polished or refined. Honour is made the vile pretence; and murder, real or intended, is always the consequence.

Men ought to consider that their great Creator has intrusted them with life for more valuable purposes than to put it to the hazard on every frivolous occasion. One would imagine that the reflection of a moment would teach any man in his senses that the determination to rush into the presence of his Maker with the crime of murder on his head was sufficient to ensure his perdition!

Happy are those, who have been thus tempted to imbrue their hands in the blood of their fellow-creatures, if they escape the murdering

sword or pistol, and have time allotted them to repent of their misdeeds : and surely a whole life of

penitence is short enough to atone for the intentional murder of a fellow-creature.

ELIZABETH CHIVERS,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HER BASTARD CHILD.

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of July, 1712, Elizabeth Chivers was indicted for the wilful murder of her female bastard child, Elizabeth Ward, by drowning it in a pond ; and, pleading guilty, she received sentence of death.

This unnatural woman was a native of Spitalfields, but lived at Stepney at the time of the commission of the murder. The account she gave of herself after she was under sentence of death was as follows :—She said that her father dying while she was very young, left her in indigent circumstances, which obliged her to go to service when she was only fourteen years of age ; that she lived in several reputable families, in which her conduct was deemed irreproachable.

When she arrived almost at the age of thirty years, she lived with one Mr. Ward, an attorney, who prevailed on her to lie with him ; in consequence of which she bore the child which she afterwards murdered.

Finding herself pregnant, she removed from Mr. Ward's to another family, where she remained about six weeks, and then took private lodgings ; in which she was delivered of a girl, who was baptized by the name of Elizabeth Ward. The father, agreeable to his promise, provided for the mother and child for about three months, when Mrs. Ward, discovering her habitation, exposed her in the neighbourhood, so that she was ashamed to make appearance.

Enraged by this circumstance, she was tempted to destroy her child : on which she took it into the fields, and threw it into a pond not far from Hackney ; but some people near the spot, happening to see what passed, took her into custody, and carried her before a magistrate, who committed her to Newgate.

All the time that she remained in this gloomy prison, her mind seemed to be tortured with the most agonizing pains on account of the horrid crime of which she had been guilty ; and she expressed a sense of her torments in the following striking words, which she spoke to a clergyman who attended her : ' Oh, sir ! I am lost ! I cannot pray, I cannot repent ; my sin is too great to be pardoned ! I did commit it with deliberation and choice, and in cold blood : I was not driven to it by necessity. The father had all the while provided for me and for the child, and would have done so still, had not I destroyed the child, and thereby sought my own destruction.'

She suffered the dreadful sentence of the law on the 1st of Aug. 1712.

It is very remarkable of this woman that she was near thirty years of age before she was seduced, and previous to that time her character was unimpeached.—Hence let young women learn the importance of chastity, and consider how very little they have to depend on when the character is once gone. Let men, likewise, be taught to reflect what a horrid crime seduction is ; and that, when once they tempt

a young woman to violate her chastity, they are only leading her to the brink of inevitable destruction.

The terrors of conscience this poor creature underwent appear to have been of the most dreadful kind, and afford us a shocking idea of the consequences resulting from the crime of murder. What a deplorable state must that wretch be in, who despairs to so great a

degree as to be unable to repent! May God, in his mercy, grant that none of the readers of this work may ever have occasion to repent of a crime so shocking as murder! Nature revolts at the idea of so enormous an offence; but we know not to what lengths our passions may lead us. Let us, therefore, constantly pray that we may not be 'led into temptation;' and 'let him that standeth take heed lest he fall.'

RICHARD TOWN,

EXECUTED FOR FRAUDULENT BANKRUPTCY.

In September, 1712, Richard Town was indicted at the Old Bailey for withdrawing himself from his creditors after a commission of bankrupt issued against him, and for removing and fraudulently carrying away fifteen tons of tallow, valued at 400*l.* and 400*l.* in money, with his debt-books and books of accounts, with intention to defraud his creditors.

Having pleaded not guilty to the indictment, the counsel informed the jury that the act of parliament had expressly declared that, 'if any person, being a bankrupt, after the month of April, 1707, did fraudulently conceal, embezzle, or make away with goods or money to the value of 20*l.* he should be deemed guilty of felony.'

A number of witnesses were called to prove his being a regular trader, and to make it appear that he had committed an act of bankruptcy; but the principal of these was Mr. Hodgson, who deposed that being sent after a prisoner by the commissioners of bankrupts, he apprehended him at Sandwich, and searching him, by virtue of his warrant, found in his pocket twenty guineas in gold, and about five pounds seven shillings and sixpence in silver; and that he had three gold rings on his fingers: that

he took from him the gold, and five pounds in silver, and left him the odd silver.

Town had intended to sail in a ship which was bound to Amsterdam; but, being too late, he went on board a packet-boat bound to Ostend, and, being taken sea-sick, he went to the side of the vessel, and, stooping down, dropped eight hundred guineas, which were in two bags between his coat and waistcoat, into the sea.

A storm arising at sea, the packet-boat was driven back, and obliged to put into Sandwich; in consequence of which Town was apprehended by Hodgson, as above mentioned.

When Town was examined before the commissioners, he acknowledged that he had ordered Thomas Norris to carry off his books and accounts, plate, and papers of value, and likewise to convey a large quantity of tallow, which he supposed was then arrived in Holland.

Now the counsel for Town insisted that, as Norris was a joint agent with him, the act of one was the act of both; and that he could not legally be convicted till the other (who was then abroad) could be apprehended, and tried with him. But, in order to frustrate this argument, it was proved that Town had

shipped off large quantities of goods on his own account; besides, the circumstance of his being taken at Sandwich, by Mr. Hodgson, with more than twenty pounds of his creditors' money in his possession, was a sufficient proof of his guilt: wherefore the jury did not hesitate on his case, and he received sentence of death.

This unhappy man was a native of the county of Oxford, and for some time had carried on a considerable business as a tallow-chandler, with great reputation; but it appears too evident that he had formed a design of defrauding his creditors, because, at the time of his absconding, he had considerable property in the funds, and was otherwise in good circumstances.

Before his conviction he was indulged with a chamber to himself in the press-yard; but, after sentence was passed on him, he was put into the condemned hole with the other prisoners: but here he caught a violent cold, which brought on a deafness, a disorder to which he had been subject; wherefore, on complaining of this circumstance, he was removed to his former apartments.

While under sentence of death, he refused to acknowledge the justice of his sentence, declaring that a person whom he had relieved, and preserved from ruin, had occasioned his destruction. He attended the devotions of the place, declared that he forgave his enemies, and begged that God would likewise forgive them. He was exactly forty-one years of age the day of his execution, which took place December 23, 1712, a circumstance which, with great composure, he mentioned to the Ordinary of Newgate, on his way to the place of execution.

Mr. Town was the first person who suffered on the act which made it felony for a bankrupt to conceal the value of 20*l.* or upwards. It is the fate of many an honest man to become a bankrupt, and it is but too common for the unfeeling world to brand all bankrupts with the general name of villain: but we hope, for the honour of human nature, that this name is not deserved once where it is applied a thousand times.

It has been the misfortune of some of the worthiest men we have ever known to become bankrupts. On the contrary, many of the most contemptible of the human race have been successful traders, and, in the language of the city, have been 'good men.' Undoubtedly there have been fraudulent bankruptcies; but, comparatively speaking, we believe very few. We have not many instances of traders flourishing in a great degree after a bankruptcy; and what man would wish, if it were in his power, to meet the public contempt and derision, for the sake of embezzling a few paltry hundred pounds, and this, too, at the hazard of his life?

With regard to the particular instance before us, we see a strong proof of the wisdom and justice of Providence, in preventing this offender from making his escape; in the first place, by the ship having sailed; and in the second by the packet-boat being obliged to put back, through stress of weather.

Hence let all who are tempted to commit crimes of a similar, or of any other nature, learn that they can never escape the sight of a just God, who ruleth the world in righteousness.

RICHARD NOBLE,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MR. SAYER.

We forbear to comment upon that part of this shocking transaction which relates to the female sex; and happy should we be if our duty permitted us to consign to oblivion imputations upon those who were by nature formed to be the friend and comfort of man.

Richard Noble, we are sorry to say, was an attorney at law, and the paramour of Mrs. Sayer, wife of John Sayer, Esq. who was possessed of about one thousand pounds a year, and lord of the manor of Biddesden, in Buckinghamshire. Mr. Sayer does not appear to have been a man of any great abilities, but was remarkable for his good nature and inoffensive disposition.

Mrs. Sayer, to whom he was married in 1699, was the daughter of Admiral Nevil—a woman of an agreeable person and brilliant wit, but of such an abandoned disposition as to be a disgrace to her sex. Soon after Mr. Sayer's wedding, Colonel Salisbury married the admiral's widow; but there was such a vicious similarity in the conduct of the mother and daughter that the two husbands had early occasion to be disgusted with the choice they had made.

Mr. Sayer's nuptials had not been celebrated many days before the bride took the liberty of kicking him, and hinted that she would procure a lover more agreeable to her mind. Sayer, who was distractedly fond of her, bore this treatment with patience; and, at the end of a twelvemonth, she presented him a daughter, which soon died: but he became still more fond of her after she had made him a father, and was continually loading her with presents.

Mr. Sayer now took a house in

Lisle Street, Leicester Fields, kept a coach, and did every thing which he thought might gratify his wife; but her unhappy disposition was the occasion of temporary separations. At times, however, she behaved with more complaisance to her husband, who had, after a while, the honour of being deemed father of another child of which she was delivered; and, after this circumstance, she indulged herself in still greater liberties than before, her mother, who was almost constantly with her, encouraging her in this shameful conduct.

At length a scheme was concerted which would probably have ended in the destruction of Mr. Sayer and Colonel Salisbury, had it not been happily prevented by the prudence of the latter. The colonel taking an opportunity to represent to Mrs. Sayer the ill consequences that must attend her infidelity to her husband, she immediately attacked him with the most outrageous language, and insulted him to that degree that he threw the remainder of a cup of tea at her. The mother and daughter immediately laid hold of this circumstance to inflame the passions of Mr. Sayer, whom they at length prevailed on to demand satisfaction of the colonel.

The challenge is said to have been written by Mrs. Sayer; and, when the colonel received it, he conjectured that it was a plan concerted between the ladies to get rid of their husbands. However, he obeyed the summons, and, going in a coach with Mr. Sayer towards Montague House, he addressed him as follows: 'Son Sayer, let us come to a right understanding of this business. 'Tis very well known that I am a swordsman, and I should be

very far from getting any honour by killing you. But, to come nearer to the point in hand, thou shouldst know, Jack, for all the world knows, that thy wife and mine are both what they should not be. 'They want to get rid of us at once. If thou shouldst drop, they'll have me hanged for it after.' There was so much of obvious truth in this remark, that Mr. Sayer immediately felt its force, and the gentlemen drove home together, to the mortification of the ladies.

Soon after this affair Mrs. Sayer went to her house in Buckinghamshire, where an intimacy took place between her and the curate of the parish; and the amour was conducted with so little reserve, that all the servants saw that the parson had more influence in the house than their master.

Mrs. Sayer coming to London, was soon followed by the young clergyman, who was seized with the small-pox, which cost him his life. When he found there was no hope of his recovery, he sent to Mr. Sayer, earnestly requesting to see him; but Mrs. Sayer, who judged what he wanted, said that her husband had not had the small-pox, and such a visit might cost him his life. She therefore insisted that her husband should not go; and the passive man tamely submitted to this injunction, though his wife daily sent a footman to inquire after the clergyman, who died without being visited by Mr. Sayer.

This gentleman had not been long dead before his place was supplied by an officer of the guards; but he was soon dismissed in favour of a man of great distinction, who presented her with some valuable china, which she pretended was won at Astrop Wells.

About this time Mr. Sayer found his affairs considerably deranged by

his wife's extravagance; on which a gentleman recommended him to Mr. Richard Noble, the subject of our present consideration, as a man capable of being very serviceable to him. His father kept a very reputable coffee-house at Bath; and his mother was so virtuous a woman, that when Noble afterwards went to her house with Mrs. Sayer, in a coach and six, she shut the door against him. He had been well educated, and articled to an attorney of eminence in New Inn, in which he afterwards took chambers for himself; but he had not been in any considerable degree of practice when he was introduced to Mr. Sayer.

Soon after his introduction to Mr. Sayer's family he became too intimate with Mrs. Sayer, and, if report said true, with her mother likewise. However, these abandoned women had other prospects besides mere gallantry, and, considering Noble as a man of the world as well as a lover, they concerted a scheme to deprive Mr. Sayer of a considerable part of his estate.

The unhappy gentleman, being perpetually teased by the women, at length consented to execute a deed of separation, in which he assigned some lands in Buckinghamshire, to the amount of one hundred and fifty pounds a year, to his wife, exclusive of fifty pounds a year for pin-money; and by this deed he likewise covenanted that Mrs. Sayer might live with whom she pleased, and that he would never molest any person on account of harbouring her. Mr. Sayer was even so weak as to sign this deed without having counsel of his own to examine it.

Not long after this Mrs. Sayer was delivered of a child at Bath; but, that the husband might not take alarm at this circum-

stance, Noble sent him a letter, acquainting him that he was to be pricked down for high sheriff of Buckinghamshire; and Mrs. Salisbury urged him to go to Holland to be out of the way, and supplied him with some money on the occasion.

It does not seem probable that Sayer had any suspicion of Noble's criminal intercourse with his wife; for, the night before he set out, he presented him with a pair of saddle-pistols, and furniture worth above forty pounds.

Soon after he was gone, Mrs. Sayer's maid, speaking of the danger her master might be in at sea, Mrs. Sayer said, 'She should be sorry his man James, a poor innocent fellow, should come to any harm; but she should be glad, and earnestly wished, that Mr. Sayer might sink to the bottom of the sea, and that the bottom of the ship might come out.'

Not long after the husband was gone abroad, Noble began to give himself airs of greater consequence than he had hitherto done. He was solicitor in a cause in the Court of Chancery, in which Mr. Sayer was plaintiff, and, having obtained a decree, he obliged the trustees nominated in the marriage articles to relinquish, and assumed the authority of a sole trustee.

Mr. Sayer remained in Holland nearly a year, during which time Noble publicly cohabited with his wife; and when her husband returned she refused to live with him; but having first robbed him of above two thousand pounds, in exchequer bills and other effects, she went to private lodgings with Noble, and was shortly after delivered of another child. After Mrs. Sayer had thus eloped from her husband, he caused an advertisement to be inserted in the newspapers, of which the following is a copy:

'Whereas Mary, the wife of John Sayer, Esq. late of Lisle Street, St. Anne's, went away from her dwelling-house, on or about the 23d of May last, in company with Elizabeth Nevil, sister to the said Mary, and hath carried away near one thousand pounds in money, besides other things of a considerable value, and is supposed to go by some other name: he desires all tradesmen and others not to give her any credit, for that he will not pay the same.'

While Mrs. Sayer cohabited with Noble he was constantly supplied with money; but he was not her only associate at that time, for, during his occasional absence, she received the visits of other lovers.

Noble now procured an order from the Court of Chancery to take Mr. Sayer in execution for four hundred pounds, at the suit of Mrs. Salisbury, the consequence of a judgment confessed by him, for form's sake, to protect his goods from his creditors while he was in Holland. Mr. Sayer declared that the real debt was not more than seventy pounds, though artful management and legal expenses had swelled it to the above-mentioned sum.

Hereupon Sayer took refuge within the rules of the Fleet prison, and exhibited his bill in chancery for relief against these suits, and the deed of separation, which he obtained.

In the mean time Mrs. Sayer finding herself liable to be exposed by the advertisement her husband had caused to be inserted in the newspapers, she, with her mother and Noble, took lodgings in the Mint, Southwark, which was at that time a place of refuge for great numbers of persons of desperate circumstances and abandoned characters.

Mr. Sayer, having been informed

of this, wrote several letters to her, promising that he would forgive all her crimes if she would return to her duty; but she treated his letters with as much contempt as she had done his person.

Hereupon he determined to seize on her by force, presuming that he should recover some of his effects if he could get her into his custody. He therefore obtained a warrant of a justice of the peace, and, taking with him two constables, and six assistants, went to the house of George Twysford, in the Mint; the constables intimating that they had a warrant to search for a suspected person: for if it had been thought that they were bailiffs, their lives would have been in danger.

Having entered the house, they went to a back room, where Noble, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Salisbury, were at dinner: the door was no sooner open than Noble drew his sword, and, stabbing Sayer in the left breast, he died on the spot. The constables immediately apprehended the murderer and the two women; but the latter were so abandoned, that, while the peace officers were conveying them to the house of a magistrate, they did little else than lament the fate of Noble.

Apprehensive that the mob would rise, from a supposition that the prisoners were debtors, a constable was directed to carry he bloody sword before them, in testimony that murder had been committed, which produced the wished-for effect, by keeping perfect peace.

The prisoners begged to send for counsel; which being granted, Noble was committed for trial, after an examination of two hours; but the counsel urged so many arguments in favour of the women, *that it was ten o'clock at night before they were committed.* Soon

afterwards this worthless mother and daughter applied to the Court of King's Bench to be admitted to bail, which was refused them.

The coroner's inquest having viewed Mr. Sayer's body, it was removed to his lodgings, within the rules of the Fleet, in order for interment; and three days afterwards they gave a verdict, finding Noble guilty of wilful murder, and the women of having aided and assisted him in that murder.

On the evening of the 12th of March, 1713, they were put to the bar at Kingston, in Surrey; and having been arraigned on the several indictments, to which they pleaded not guilty, they were told to prepare for their trials by six o'clock on the following morning.

Being brought down for trial at the appointed time, they moved the court that their trials might be deferred till the afternoon, on the plea that some material witnesses were absent: but the court, not believing their allegations, refused to comply with their request. It was imagined that this motion to put off their trials was founded in the expectation that when the business at the Nisi Prius bar was dispatched many of the jurymen might go home, so that, when the prisoners had made their challenges, there might not be a number left sufficient to try them, so that they might escape till the next assizes, by which time they hoped some circumstances would happen in their favour.

It being ordered that the trials should commence, Mr. Noble and Mrs. Salisbury each challenged twenty of the jury, and Mrs. Sayer challenged thirty-five. Here it should be observed that all persons indicted for felony have a right to challenge *twenty* jurors, and those indicted for petit-treason *thirty-five*; which may be done

without alleging any cause. Happily, however, the sheriff had summoned so great a number of jurors, that the ends of public justice were not, for the present, defeated.—Noble's counsel urged that some of the persons who broke into the house might have murdered Mr. Sayer, or, if they had not, the provocation he had received might be such as would warrant the jury in finding him guilty of manslaughter only.

As the court had sat from six o'clock in the morning till one o'clock the next morning, the jury were indulged with some refreshment before they left the box; and, after being out nine hours, they gave their verdict that Mr. Noble was 'Guilty,' and Mrs. Salisbury and Mrs. Sayer were 'Not guilty.' When Mr. Noble was brought to the bar to receive sentence, he addressed the court in the following words:

'My Lord,—I am soon to appear and render an account of my sins to God Almighty. If your lordship should think me guilty of those crimes I have been accused, and convicted of by my jury, I am then sure your lordship will think that I stand in need of such a reparation, such a humiliation for my great offences, such an abhorrence of my past life to give me hopes of a future one, that I am not without hopes that it will be a motive to your lordship's goodness, that after you have judged and sentenced my body to execution, you will charitably assist me with a little time for the preservation of my soul. If I had nothing to answer for but killing Mr. Sayer with precedent malice, I should have no need to address myself to your lordship in this manner. It is now too late to take advantage by denying it to your lordship, and too near my end to dissemble it be-

fore God. I know, my lord, the danger, the hell, that I should plunge myself headlong into; I know I shall soon answer for the truth I am about to say before a higher tribunal, and a more discerning Judge than your lordship, which is only in heaven. I did not take the advantage to kill Mr. Sayer; by the thought or apprehension that I could do it under the umbrage of the laws, or with impunity: nothing was more distant from my thoughts than to remove him out of the world to enjoy his wife (as was suggested) without molestation; nor could any one have greater reluctance or remorse, from the time of the fact to the hour of my trial, than I have had, though the prosecutors reported to the contrary, for which I heartily forgive them. My counsel obliged me to say, on my trial, that I heard Mr. Sayer's voice before he broke open the door; I told them, as I now tell your lordship, that I did not know it was him till he was breaking in at the door, and then, and not before, was my sword drawn, and the wound given, which wound, as Dr. Garth informed me, was so very slight, that it was a thousand to one that he died of it. When I gave the wound, I insensibly quitted the sword, by which means I left myself open for him to have done what was proved he attempted, and was so likely for him to have effected, viz. to have stabbed me: and his failure in the attempt has not a little excited my surprise. When I heard the company run up stairs, I was alarmed, and in fear; the landlord telling me instantly thereupon that the house was beset, either for me or himself, added to my confusion. I then never thought or intended to do mischief, but first bolted the fore door, and then bolted and padlocked the back door, which was glazed, and began to fasten the

shutters belonging to it, designing only to screen myself from the violence of the tumult. When he broke open the door, and not till then, I perceived and knew he was present; and his former threats and attempts, which I so fully proved on my trial, and could have proved much fuller, had not Mrs. Salisbury's evidence been taken from me, made my fear so great, and the apprehension of my danger so near, that what I did was the natural motion of self-defence, and was too sudden to be the result of precedent malice; and I solemnly declare that I did not hear or know from Wyford the landlord, or otherwise, that any constable attended the deceased till after the misfortune happened. It was my misfortune that what I said as to hearing the deceased's voice was turned to my disadvantage by the counsel against me, and that I was not entitled to any assistance of counsel, to enforce the evidence given for me, or to remark upon the evidence given against me: which I don't doubt would have fully satisfied your lordship and the jury that what happened was more my misfortune than my design or intention. If I had been able, under the concern, to remark upon the evidence against me, that Mr. Sayer was but the tenth part of a minute in breaking open the door, it could not then well be supposed by the jury that I was preparing myself, or putting myself in order to do mischief, which are acts of forethought and consideration which require much more time than is pretended I could have had from the time I discovered Mr. Sayer; for even from his entry into the house to the time of the accident did not amount, as I am informed, to more than the space of three minutes. But I did not discover him before the door gave way.

I wish it had been my good fortune that the jury had applied that to me which your lordship remarked in favour of the ladies, that the matter was so very sudden, so very accidental and unexpected, that it was impossible to be a contrivance and confederacy, and unlikely that they could come to a resolution in so short a time. I don't remember your lordship distinguished my case, as to that particular, to be different from theirs, nor was there room for it; for it is impossible for your lordship to believe that I dreamt of Mr. Sayer's coming there at that time, but, on the contrary, I fully proved to your lordship that I went there upon another occasion, that was lawful and beneficial to the deceased; and I had no more time to think and contrive than the ladies had to agree or consent. If any thing could be construed favorably on the behalf of such an unfortunate wretch as myself, I think the design I had some time before begun, and was about finishing that day, might have taken away all suspicion of malice against Mr. Sayer.—Must it be thought, my lord, that I only am such a sinner that I cannot repent and make reparation to the persons I have injured? It was denied; but I strongly solicited a reconciliation between Mr. Sayer and his lady; and if this had tended to procure me an easier access to Mrs. Sayer, it would have been such a matter of aggravation to me, that it could not have escaped the remark of the counsel against me, nor the sharpness of the prosecutors present in court: with both I transacted, and to both I appealed, particularly to Mr. Nott, to whom, but the day before this accident, I manifested my desire of having them live together again; and therefore, my lord, it should be presumed I laboured to be reconciled to, and

not to revenge myself on, Mr. Sayer. Your lordship, I hope, will observe thus much in my favour, that it was so far from being a clear fact; in the opinion of the jury, that they sat up all night, and, believing there was no malice at that time, told your lordship they intended, and were inclined, to find it manslaughter; and, doubting the legality of the warrant, to find it special. I hope this will touch your lordship's heart so far as not to think me so ill a man as to deserve (what the best of Christians are taught to pray against) a sudden death!—I confess, I am unprepared; the hopes of my being able to make a legal defence, and my endeavours therein, having taken up my time, which I wish I had better employed. I beg leave to assure your lordship, upon the words of a dying man, that as none of the indirect practices to get or suppress evidence were proved upon me, so they never sprang from me; and I can safely say that my blood, in a great measure, will lie at their door that did, because it drew me under an ill imputation of defending myself by subornation of perjury. I would be willing to do my duty towards my neighbour, as well as God, before I die; I have many papers and concerns (by reason of my profession) of my clients in my hands, and who will suffer if they are not put into some order; and nothing but these two considerations could make life desirable, under this heavy load of irons, and restless remorse of conscience for my sins. A short reprieve for these purposes, I hope, will be agreeable to your lordship's humanity and Christian virtue, whereupon your lordship's

name shall be blest with my last breath, for giving me an opportunity of making peace with my conscience and God Almighty.'

The last request that Noble made was granted: he was allowed some time to settle his spiritual and temporal concerns, and at length suffered at Kingston, on the 28th of March, 1713, exhibiting marks of genuine repentance.

As to the women, they were no sooner acquitted than they set out for London, taking one of the turnkeys with them, to protect them from the assaults of the populace, who were incensed in the highest degree at the singular enormity of their crimes.

Little need be added, by way of reflection, to this long and interesting narrative. Those who do not see and abhor the extreme wickedness of these abandoned women are not likely to be influenced by any arguments we can use. The situation of Mr. Sayer is pitiable in a high degree. He was distractedly fond of a woman who despised him—who despised every thing that bore but the semblance of virtue.

The fate of Noble was no other than what he merited by a long and obstinate perseverance in a course of vice and ingratitude; his baseness is almost unexampled. We hope the force of the following advice of the wise king Solomon will be felt by all our readers: 'Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it; turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to FALL.'

RICHARD LOWTHER AND WILLIAM KEELE,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF WILLIAM PERRY, A TURNKEY OF CLERKENWELL BRIDEWELL.

WILLIAM Lowther was a native of Cumberland, and, being bound to the master of a Newcastle ship, which traded to London, became acquainted with some of that low and abandoned company which is always to be found in the metropolis.

Richard Keele was a native of Hampshire, and served his time to a barber at Winchester; and, on coming to London, he married and settled in his own business in Rotherhithe: but not living happily with his wife, he parted from her, cohabited with another woman, and associated with a number of disorderly people, till the commission of the crime for which his life paid the forfeit.

On the 10th of December, 1713, they were indicted at the Old Bailey, for assisting Charles Houghton in the murder of Edward Perry.

The case was as follows: the prisoners, together with two other desperate offenders, of the names of Houghton and Cullum, having been convicted of felony at the Old Bailey, were sentenced to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell bridewell for two years. On their being carried thither, Mr. Boreman, the keeper, thought it necessary to put them in irons, to prevent their escape. This they all refused to submit to; and Boreman having ordered the irons, they broke into the room where the arms were deposited, which they seized, and then attacked the keeper and his assistants, whom they cruelly beat. Lowther bit off part of a man's nose. At this time Perry, one of the turnkeys, was without the gate, and desired the prisoners to be peaceable; ¹ *advancing towards them, he*

was stabbed by Houghton; and during the fray Houghton was shot dead.

The prisoners being at length victorious, many of them made their escape; but the neighbours giving their assistance, Keele and Lowther, and several others, were taken and convicted on the clearest evidence. Before the passing sentence, Keele endeavoured to extenuate his crime; but he was informed by the court that he must be deemed equally guilty with the rest of his companions, as he had opposed the keepers in the execution of their duty.

Some time after conviction, a smith went to the prison to take measure of them for chains, in which they were to be hung, pursuant to an order from the secretary of state's office; but they for some time resisted him in this duty.

On the morning of execution, being the 13th of December, 1713, they were carried from Newgate to Clerkenwell Green, and there hanged on a gallows erected on the occasion; after which their bodies were put in a cart, drawn by four horses, decorated with plumes of black feathers, and were hung in chains on the day after their execution.

While these unhappy men lay under sentence of death, they appeared to have a due sense of the enormity of the crime of which they had been guilty, and made serious preparation for the important change they were to undergo; but, at the place of execution, Keele asked the under-sheriff if they were to be hung in chains; when the answer given was, 'Don't concern yourself about your body, but take care of your poor soul.'

It is very remarkable that many unhappy convicts have been more anxious that their bodies should not hang in chains than even for the preservation of life itself; such is the sense of shame which prevails in the minds of those whose crimes have been so atrocious, that one would conjecture they had been hardened beyond all idea of shame. What is the inference to be drawn from this fact? It seems evident that such is the corruption of the human heart, that men will commit those crimes without blushing, the slightest punishment of which they cannot bear the idea of; for surely the hanging in chains, after death, can scarcely be deemed a punishment. In fact, it is not intended as a punishment to the deceased, but a terror to the living: and it is a circumstance of the utmost disgrace, and the most mortifying to

the human feelings, to be hung up between heaven and earth, as if unworthy of either; the sport of the winds, a prey for the birds of the air, and an object of pity, scorn, and derision, to their fellow-creatures.

There is no saying to what length any man may proceed who once departs from the path of integrity. Many a person has been executed for murder, whose first crimes were of a very inferior nature: but vice is not only rapid, but greedy in its progress. It is like a snow-ball rolled down a hill; its bulk increases by its own swiftness.

Hence let the young and the thoughtless be taught to guard against the first approaches of vice; to shun the contamination of bad company, as they would a pestilence; and, in the Scripture phrase, to 'fly from all appearance of evil.'

NATHANIEL PARKHURST, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

It is somewhat singular that, in our search of the ancient records of crimes and punishments, we should find, in chronological order, two murders, stimulated by the fumes of intoxication. Of this disgraceful practice—of itself a sin—we could give a long lecture; but let these dreadful consequences operate as a caution to drunkards.

Mr. Parkhurst was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Lewis Pleura, on the 3d of March, 1715; and a second time indicted on the statute of stabbing; when the substance of the evidence given against him was as follows:

He was a native of the village of Catesby, near Daventry, in Northamptonshire, and was the son of very respectable parents, who, having given him the education common in a country academy, sent

him to finish his studies at Wadham College, in Oxford; but, associating himself with men of an atheistical turn of mind, they employed themselves in ridiculing religion, and making a jest of the scriptures, and every thing that was held sacred.

Lewis Pleura, who was born in Italy, had taken upon himself the title of count, and subsisted by the practice of gaming, till, being greatly reduced in circumstances, he was obliged to take refuge in the Fleet prison, where he became acquainted with Mr. Parkhurst.

Parkhurst, and the deceased Lewis Pleura, having been fellow-prisoners in the Fleet for debt, the former, who had sat up drinking till three o'clock in the morning, went into a room adjoining that of Mr. Pleura, and said, 'Damn you,

Sir Lewis, where are you?' but, finding he had mistaken the room, he went into the right chamber, and said, 'Damn you, Sir Lewis, pay me four guineas you owe me.' Soon after this the cry of murder was heard; when a number of people, repairing to the place, found Pleura weltering in his blood on the floor, and Parkhurst over him with his sword, who had stabbed him in nearly twenty places.

A surgeon was immediately sent for, who dressed the deceased, and put him to bed; and, as soon as he recovered the use of his speech, he declared that Parkhurst had assassinated him. Parkhurst, being taken out of the room, went back again to it, and said, 'Damn you, Pleura, are you not dead yet?'

In answer to this evidence against him, he said that he was ignorant of having committed the crime, and for two years and a half past had been in a very unhappy state of mind; and several witnesses were called to prove that he had done many things which seemed to intimate that he was a lunatic; but, on the contrary, other evidence deposed that, not long before the murder happened, he had taken such steps towards obtaining his liberty as proved that he was in the full use of his intellectual faculties. Upon the whole, therefore, the jury found him guilty.

Soon after this offender had received sentence of death, he began to see the error of those opinions he had imbibed, and acknowledged the truth of that religion he had ridiculed, and felt the force of its divine precepts. He confessed that the dissolute course of life which he had led had wasted his substance, weakened his intellectual faculties, and disturbed his mind to such a degree, that, before he committed the murder for which he suffered,

he had resolved to kill some person or other, and make his escape from the Fleet prison; or, if he should be unable to effect this, he intended to have been guilty of suicide.

It is very remarkable of this malefactor, that, on the morning of execution, he ordered a fowl to be prepared for his breakfast, of which he seemed to eat with a good appetite, and drank a pint of liquor with it.

How men can indulge even the idea of feasting, a moment, as it were, before they know a disgraceful death must happen, is truly astonishing! Lord Lovat, as we shall hereafter show, ordered his favorite dish to be cooked, and thereof eat greedily, just before his head was severed from his body.

At the place of execution he addressed himself to the populace, intimating that, since he had been ill of the small-pox, about twenty years before, his head had been affected to such a degree that he was never able to speak long at a time: wherefore he said no more, only earnestly requested their prayers for his departing soul.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of May, 1715, in the thirty-ninth year of his age.

Mr. Parkhurst seems to have owed his destruction to his association with men of libertine principles—men who derided religion, and scoffed at holy things. We may safely conclude that there is not such a being in the world as an atheist who can be happy. The man who denies the existence of that God in whom he lives, moves, and has his being, must be extremely wretched in this world, while he is preparing for an eternity of wretchedness in the next.

On the contrary, the man who has a firm faith in the important and all-cheering doctrines of Chris-

tianity will go through the various scenes of this life with a serene composure of mind ; he will, as far as lies within his power, discharge his duty to God and man, and meet the moment of his dissolution in the fullest confidence that his final salvation will be perfected through the merits of that Saviour in whom he has trusted.

After the expulsion of Adam from Paradise, Cain stands the first notorious example on record of the sin of murder ; a crime of so enormous

a magnitude, that no language can be found in which to express its malignity. The murderer assumes to himself the privilege of Heaven, and presumes to stop the breath of his fellow-creature at his own pleasure, and to hurry him into eternity 'with all his imperfections on his head.'

Let those whom the turbulence of their passions may tempt only to *think* of committing murder reflect that there is a just God who judgeth the earth, and that all our most secret actions will be brought to light.



Spurling, a Turnkey, shot by Johnson, in the Old Bailey.

WILLIAM JOHNSON AND JANE HOUSDEN, EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MR. SPURLING.

THROUGHOUT the whole annals of our Criminal Chronology, though the denial of culprits condemned on the clearest evidence of their guilt is by far too frequently recorded, we cannot adduce an instance similar to the following dying declarations of innocence :

William Johnson, one of these

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unrelenting sinners, was a native of Northamptonshire, where he served his time to a butcher, and, removing to London, opened a shop in Newport Market ; but, business not succeeding to his expectation, he took a house in Long Acre, and commenced corn-chandler : in this business he was likewise unsuccessful,

on which he sold his stock in trade, and took a public house near Christ Church, in Surrey. Being equally unsuccessful as a victualler, he sailed to Gibraltar, where he was appointed a mate to one of the surgeons of the garrison; in short, he appears to have possessed a genius suited to a variety of employments. Having saved some money at Gibraltar, he came back to his native country, where he soon spent it, and then had recourse to the highway for a supply. Being apprehended in consequence of one of his robberies, he was convicted, but received a pardon. Previous to this he had been acquainted with one Jane Housden, the other hardened wretch, who had been tried and convicted of coining, but also obtained a pardon. It was not long after this pardon (which was procured by great interest) before Housden was again in custody for a similar offence. On the day that she was to be tried, and just as she was brought down to the bar of the Old Bailey, Johnson called to see her; but Mr. Spurling, the head turnkey, telling him that he could not speak to her till her trial was ended, he instantly

drew a pistol, and shot Spurling dead on the spot, in the presence of the court, and all the persons attending to hear the trials; Mrs. Housden at the same time encouraging him in the perpetration of this singular murder. The event had no sooner happened than the judges, thinking it unnecessary to proceed on the trial of the woman for coining, ordered both the parties to be tried for the murder; and there being such a number of witnesses to the deed, they were almost immediately convicted, and received sentence of death. From this time to that of their execution, which took place September 19th, 1712, and even at the place of their death, they behaved as if they were wholly insensible of the enormity of the crime which they had committed; and, notwithstanding the publicity of their offence, to which there were so many witnesses, they had the confidence to deny it to the last moment of their lives: nor did they show any signs of compunction for their former sins.—After hanging the usual time, Johnson was hung in chains near Holloway, between Islington and Highgate.

HENRY PLUNKET,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF THOMAS BROWN.

IN the case of this gentleman we have a shocking instance of the danger into which our passions lead us. Mr. Plunkett was a foreigner, born at Saar-Lewis, in the duchy of Lorraine, and was the son of an Irish gentleman, who held the rank of colonel in the French service, and was related to father Plunket, a priest, who was called the Primate of Ireland, and came to a fatal end in the year 1679. Young Plunket was made a lieutenant when he was ~~only ten years of age~~, and served ~~under his father in Flanders~~, Ger-

many, and Italy. He was remarkably distinguished for his courage, having never exhibited the least sign of fear in all the engagements in which he was concerned.

Having been a while at Ostend, he came over to England with a gentleman named Reynard, having fled from that place on account of having murdered a man.

He was indicted at the Old Bailey for the murder of Thomas Brown, by cutting his throat with a razor, on the 30th of August, 1714.

It appeared, in the course of the

evidence, that the prisoner lodged in the parish of St. Anne, Soho, in the same house with the deceased, who being a peruke-maker by trade, Plunket bespoke a wig of him, which Brown finished, and asked seven pounds for it, but at length lowered his demand to six: Plunket bid him four pounds for it; but was so enraged at what he thought an exorbitant price, that he took up a razor, cut his throat, and then made his escape; but was apprehended on the following day.

As soon as the horrid deed was perpetrated Brown came down stairs in a bloody condition, holding his hands to his throat, on which a surgeon was sent for, who dressed his wounds, and gave him some cordials; by which he was so far recovered as to be able to describe the prisoner, who, he said, stood behind him, pulled back his head, and cut him twice on the throat.

It was proved that a sword and a pair of gloves belonging to the prisoner were found on a bed in the

room where Brown was murdered: and Plunket, having nothing material to urge in his defence, was found guilty, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 22d of September, 1714.

He professed to die a Roman Catholic; and it was with the utmost difficulty he was brought to confess the justice of the sentence in consequence of which he suffered.

This was one of the most unprovoked murders of which we ever remember to have read. Plunket bespoke a wig of Brown, and, because the latter asked more for it than the other supposed it to be worth, he is irritated to such a degree of passion as to cut his throat! The short and serious lesson to be learnt from this shocking narrative is, to guard carefully against the first impulse of sudden passion; and to remember that, without a constant guard of this kind is kept on ourselves, the human heart is 'corrupt above all things, and desperately wicked.'

JOHN BIGG,

CONVICTED OF ALTERING A BANK NOTE.

On the 2d of June, 1715, John Bigg was indicted at the Old Bailey, on two indictments, the one for erasing, and the other for altering, a bank note of 100*l*.

On the trial it appeared that the bill in question was drawn in favour of James White or bearer, and had been signed by Joseph Odam, for the governor and company of the Bank of England: that this bill having been brought to the bank, 90*l*. was paid and endorsed on it: that it was afterwards brought again, when 25*l*. was paid and endorsed as before; and the clerks finding that this bill, among others, had been overpaid, were surprised

to think how it could have happened, till one Mr. Collins informed them that the prisoner had tempted him to be concerned with him in taking out the letters of the red ink on the notes, by means of a certain liquid; and had even shown him in what manner it was to be done.

It appeared likewise that the prisoner had discovered this secret to Mars, who had seen him make the experiment, had received money for him on the altered notes, and was promised a third part of the profit for his share in the iniquity.

The prisoner did not deny the charge; but his counsel pleaded that Mr. Odam was not a servant

properly qualified to make out such bills, unless he had been authorized under the seal of the corporation. They likewise insisted that writing with red ink on the inside of the bill could not be deemed an indorsement; and even if it were so accounted, the fact with which the prisoner was charged could not be called an altering or erasing.

After some altercation between the king's counsel and those of the prisoner, the opinion of the court was that Mr. Odam was a person properly qualified to make out such bills; but a doubt arising respecting the other articles, the jury gave a special verdict.

The judges meeting on this occasion at Sergeants'-inn Hall, Fleet Street, the case was solemnly argued; after which the unanimous opinion of the reverend sages of the law was given, that the prisoner was guilty, within the meaning of the act of parliament; in consequence of which he received sen-

tence of death in December, 1715, but afterwards obtained a free pardon.

From the case of this malefactor we may see the tenderness with which Englishmen are treated in matters which concern their lives. In cases of special verdicts prisoners have the advantage of the opinions of two juries: the first not knowing in what light to consider the crime, the learned bench of judges form a kind of second jury, where, all partiality being set aside, the supposed criminal is judged according to the strict meaning of the law; and, even after conviction, has a chance of obtaining the royal mercy, as happened in the case of the offender in question.

Hence, then, let Englishmen learn the value of those laws by which they are protected, and be devoutly thankful to that Providence which hath cast their lot in a country, the wisdom of whose legislature is the envy and admiration of the universe.

HENRY POWEL,

HIGHWAYMAN.

At nine years of age Powel was placed at Merchant Tailors' school, whence he was removed to the care of Dr. Shorter, under whom he obtained a tolerable proficiency in the Latin and Greek languages.

Having made choice of the profession of a surgeon, he was bound at Surgeons' Hall to a gentleman equally eminent for his skill and piety; but, giving early proofs of the wildness of his disposition, his master predicted that some fatal consequence would ensue.

Powel's father and mother dying soon after he was bound, and his master when he had served six years of his time, he was wholly at *his own disposal*—a circumstance

that led to his ruin. He was at this time only eighteen years of age, and hitherto had not kept any company that was notoriously wicked. Going now to see a young woman who was related to him, she fancied a ring which he had on his finger, and wished he would exchange it for hers, which he did; but it appearing to be of less value than she had imagined, she was base enough, on the following morning, to have him seized in his bed, as a person proper to serve the king; and, without being permitted to send for any friend, he was sent into Flanders as a foot soldier.

He twice deserted from the regi-

ment in which he served ; but the intercession of some of his officers saved him from the customary punishment. When he had been a soldier about three years, the regiment was quartered at Nieuport, between Dunkirk and Ostend, whence he again deserted, in company with seven other men, who travelled into Holland, where they embarked on board a ship bound to England, and being landed at Burlington, in Yorkshire, Powel came up to London.

Being arrived in the metropolis, he found that he had not one acquaintance left who was able and willing to assist him ; so that he repented having deserted from the army, being reduced to such a situation that he saw no prospect before him but either to beg or steal. The first he despised as a mean occupation, and the latter he dreaded as equally destructive to his soul and body.

Hereupon he applied for employment as a porter, and worked at the water-side, till a fellow induced him to be concerned in stealing some goods, for which the other was hanged.

About this time Powel married a young woman of strict virtue, who, finding some irregularity in his behaviour, warned him to avoid all evil courses, as they must infallibly end in his destruction.

On the 15th of October, 1715, he went as far as South Mims, in

Hertfordshire, where he stopped Sarah Maddocks on the highway, and robbed her of two shillings and sixpence ; for which offence he was apprehended, and, being tried at the Old Bailey in the following month, he was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 23d of December, 1715.

Just before his going to the place of execution, he delivered a paper to the Ordinary of Newgate, in which were the following passages : ' I account this ignominious death as a just judgment for my sins against the Divine Majesty and my neighbour ; and therefore patiently resign myself to his blessed will, and hope, with true repentance, and a steadfast faith in Christ Jesus, he will seal my pardon in heaven, before I go hence, and be no more seen ; and I bless God I have had more consolation under my condemnation than ever I had these many years ; and I hope that those who survive me will take warning by my fatal end.

' I have this comfort, that no man can accuse me of enticing him to the commission of such facts ; especially one person, who has accused me of it since my condemnation ; but, for the value I have for him, I'll omit his name, and desire him to take warning by me ; being resolved within myself, that, if God had prolonged my days, I would relinquish all such courses.'

THE EARL OF DERWENTWATER, LORD KENMURE, THE EARL OF WINTON, AND OTHERS,

EXECUTED FOR TREASON.

WE are now arrived at a very memorable period of the history of England. Neither the abdication of the throne by King James II. nor his defeat by King William III. at the battle of the Boyne, in Ireland, were

admitted by the adherents of the family of Stuart to bar their right to the crown. On the accession of George I. this question was in secret agitated with much warmth ; when the Earl of Mar, a Scotch nobleman of

great popularity, and secretly a friend to the royal stock of his own country, determined upon the attempt to dethrone the king, and to overthrow the constitution. This nobleman was farther stimulated to attempt this dangerous measure, from being, on the accession of the king, deprived of some offices which he held under the Tory ministry of Queen Anne; although, had he been permitted to retain them after the change of measures which then took place, this rebellion might not have broken out. When the earl found he was deprived of all share in the new government, he, in revenge, retired to Scotland, where he immediately began to tamper with such lords as possessed influence among the people, and found they wanted only a leader to set up the standard of the grandson of King James, who, by the Scotch, was hailed as the heir to the English throne, but by the government denominated the Pretender.

An invitation was now sent to the Pretender, who had taken refuge in France, to come to Scotland, while the friends to his cause were seducing and enlisting men for his service. This was done with all possible secrecy, yet their proceedings were soon known by the ministry, as on the 20th of July, 1715, when the king had not then reigned a year, he went to the House of Lords, where, having sent for the Commons, he told them, from the throne, that a plan was on foot to invade the country by the Pretender; and that he suspected there were too many abettors of rebellion in this country.

He required that until the rebellion should be quelled the act of habeas corpus should be suspended, and preparations should, to that

² immediately made.
were issued for the em-

bodiment of the militia, the guards were encamped in Hyde Park, and several men of war ordered to guard the coasts, and intercept the army of the Pretender on his voyage from France to Scotland. Many persons were apprehended on suspicion of secretly aiding the rebels, and committed to prison.

Meanwhile the Earl of Mar was in open rebellion at the head of an army of 3000 men, which was rapidly increasing, marching from town to town in Scotland, proclaiming the Pretender as King of England and Scotland, by the title of James III. An attempt was made by stratagem to surprise the castle of Edinburgh. To this end some of the king's soldiers were base enough to receive a bribe to admit those of the Earl of Mar, who were, by means of ladders of rope, to scale the walls, and surprise the guard; but the Lord Justice Clerk, having some suspicion of the treachery, seized the guilty, some of whom were executed.

The rebels were greatly chagrined at the failure of their attempt upon Edinburgh castle; and the French king, Louis XIV. from whom they hoped for assistance, dying about this time, the leaders became disheartened, and contemplated the abandonment of their project, until their king could appear in person among them.

Discontent, however, showed itself in another quarter. In Northumberland the spirit of rebellion was fermented by Thomas Forster, then one of the members of parliament for that county; and, being joined by several noblemen and gentlemen, they attempted to seize the large and commercial town of Newcastle, but were driven back by the friends of the government. Forster set up the standard of the Pretender, and proclaimed him the

lawful King of Britain wherever he went. He next joined a body of Scotch troops in rebellion, and marched with them as far as Preston, in Lancashire, before his career could be stopped by the king's army.

At this town generals Carpenter and Wills attacked the rebels, who defended themselves a while by firing upon the royal army from windows, and from the tops of houses; but the latter proved victorious, though not without the loss of 150 men. They made prisoners about 1800, among whom were the Earl of Derwentwater and the Lord Widdrington, English peers; and the Earl of Nithisdale, the Earl of Winton, the Earl of Carnwarth, Viscount Kenmure, and the Lord Nairn, Scotch peers.

These noblemen, with about 300 more rebels, were conveyed to London; the remainder, taken at the battle of Preston, were sent to Liverpool and its adjacent towns. At Highgate, the party intended for trial in London were met by a strong detachment of foot-guards, who tied them back to back, and placed two on each horse; and in this ignominious manner were they held to the derision of the populace, until the lords were conveyed to the Tower, and the others to Newgate and other prisons.

On the day after the victory of the English, the Earl of Mar, with his followers, attempted to cross the Forth, with a view of joining the rebels collected together in England; but a squadron of the British fleet having anchored off Edinburgh, they abandoned that design.

Sir John M'Kenzie, on the part

of the Pretender, fortified the town of Inverness; but Lord Lovat* armed his tenants, and drove him from his fortifications. This was a service of much import to the royal cause, as the possession of Inverness opened a communication between the high and the low lands of Scotland. The Earl of Scathforth and the Marquis of Huntley appeared in favour of the Pretender; but on the Earl of Sunderland threatening to fall upon them, at the head of his tenants, they laid down their arms. Thus we find that the interest of Scotland was divided in the question of the right to the British throne. In England there was a vast majority in favour of the house of Hanover.

The Pretender, evading the British ships sent to watch his motions, landed from a small French vessel, with only six followers. This happened on the 23d of December, while the royal army, under the Duke of Argyle, were in winter quarters at Stirling, and that of the rebels at Perth. On the 9th of January, 1716, having collected a few hundred half-armed Highlanders, the Pretender made a public entry into the palace of Scone, the place of coronation of the kings of Scotland while that country was a separate monarchy, assumed the functions of a king, and issued a proclamation for his coronation, and another for the convocation of the states.

These daring proceedings determined the Duke of Argyle, who had been joined by General Cadogan, at the head of 6000 Dutch troops, notwithstanding the inclemency of the season, to march in

* This Scotch nobleman, at this time active in the cause of King George, by a strange infatuation, during a subsequent rebellion, on the very same cause, took the other side, and fought for the Pretender, was taken, condemned, and beheaded on Tower-hill! A particular account of that rebellion we shall also give, with the trials and execution of the rebels.

pursuit of the rebels. He proceeded to their head-quarters at Perth, but they fled on his approach. It appeared that the Pretender was encouraged by France to rebel, hoping thereby to throw the nation into confusion, of which that deceitful government would have taken the advantage. To meet the expected succours, the Pretender and his adherents went to Dundee, and thence to Montrose, where, soon rendered hopeless by no news arriving of the approach of the foreigners, they began to disperse. The king's troops pursued and put several to death; but the Pretender, accompanied by the Earl of Mar, and some of the leaders of the rebellion, had the good fortune to get on board a ship lying before Montrose, and, in a dark night, put to sea, escaped the English fleet, and landed in France.

It is now time to return to the captive lords, and the other prisoners, taken at the battle of Preston. The House of Commons unanimously agreed to impeach the lords, and expel Forster from his seat as one of their members; while the courts of common law proceeded with the trials of those of less note. The articles of impeachment being sent by the Commons, the Lords sat in judgment, Earl Cowper, the Lord High Chancellor of England, being constituted Lord High Steward.

The unfortunate noblemen, except the Earl of Winton, pleaded guilty to the indictment, but offered pleas of extenuation for their guilt, in hopes of obtaining mercy. In that of the Earl of Derwentwater, he suggested that the proceedings in the House of Commons, in impeaching him, were illegal.

Proclamation was immediately made for silence, and the Lord High Steward proceeded to pass the sen-

tence of the law, on those who had pleaded guilty, in the following words:

'James Earl of Derwentwater, William Lord Widdrington, William Earl of Nithisdale, Robert Earl of Carnwarth, William Viscount Kenmure, William Lord Nairn:

'You stand impeached by the Commons of Great Britain, in parliament assembled, of high treason, in traitorously imagining and compassing the death of his most sacred majesty, and in conspiring for that end to levy a bloody and destructive war against his majesty, in order to depose and murder him; and in levying war accordingly, and proclaiming a pretender to his crown to be king of these realms.

'Which impeachment, though one of your lordships, in the introduction to his plea, supposes to be out of the ordinary and common course of the law and justice, is yet as much a course of proceeding according to the common law as any other whatsoever.

'If you had been indicted, the indictment must have been removed, and brought before the House of Lords (the parliament sitting). In that case you had 'tis true been accused only by the grand jury of one county; in the present, the whole body of the commons of Great Britain, by their representatives, are your accusers.

'And this circumstance is very observable (to exclude all possible supposition of hardship as to the method of proceeding against you), that, however all great assemblies are apt to differ on other points, you were impeached by the unanimous opinion of the House of Commons, not one contradicting.

'They found themselves, it seems, so much concerned in the preservation of his most truly sa-

cred majesty, and the Protestant succession (the very life and soul of these kingdoms), that they could not omit the first opportunity of taking their proper part, in order to so signal and necessary an act of his majesty's justice.

'And thus the whole body politic of this free kingdom has in a manner rose up in its own defence, for the punishment of those crimes, which, it was rightly apprehended, had a direct tendency to the everlasting dissolution of it.

'To this impeachment you have severally pleaded and acknowledged yourselves guilty of the high treason therein contained.

'Your pleas are accompanied with some variety of matter to mitigate your offences, and to obtain mercy.

'Part of which, as some of the circumstances said to have attended your surrender (seeming to be offered rather as arguments only for mercy, than any thing in mitigation of your preceding guilt), is not proper for me to take notice of.

'But as to the other part, which is meant to extenuate the crimes of which you are convicted, it is fit I should take this occasion to make some observations to your lordships upon it, to the end that the judgment to be given against you may clearly appear to be just and righteous, as well as legal; and that you may not remain under any fatal error in respect of a greater judgment, by reflecting with less horror and remorse on the guilt you have contracted than it really deserves.

'It is alleged, by some of your lordships, that you engaged in this rebellion without previous concert or deliberation, and without suitable preparations of men, horses, and arms.

'If this should be supposed true, on some of your lordships averring

it, I desire you to consider that if it exempts you from the circumstance of contriving this treason, so it very much aggravates your guilt in that part you have undoubtedly borne in the execution of it.

'For it shows that your inclinations to rebel were so well known (which could only be from a continued series of your words and actions), that the contrivers of that horrid design depended upon you, and therein judged rightly that your zeal to engage in this treason was so strong, as to carry you into it on the least warning, and the very first invitation; that you would not excuse yourselves by want of preparation, as you might have done; and that, rather than not have a share in the rebellion, you would plunge yourselves into it, almost naked and unprovided for such an enterprise; in short, that your men, horses, and arms, were not so well prepared as they might, and would have been, on longer warning; but your minds were.

'It is alleged also, as an extenuation of your crimes, that no cruel or harsh action (I suppose is meant no rapine or plunder, or worse) has been committed by you.

'This may, in part only, be true: but then your lordships will at the same time consider that the laying waste a tract of land bears but a little proportion, in point of guilt, compared with that crime of which you stand convicted—an open attempt to destroy the best of kings, to ruin the whole fabric and raze the very foundations of a government the best suited of any in the world to perfect the happiness and support the dignity of human nature. The former offence causes but a mischief that is soon recovered, and is usually pretty much confined; the latter, had it

succeeded, must have brought a lasting and universal destruction on the whole kingdom.

'Besides, much of this was owing to accident; your march was so hasty, partly to avoid the king's troops, and partly from a vain hope to stir up insurrections in all the counties you passed through, that you had not time to spread devastation, without deviating from your main, and, as I have observed, much worse, design.

'Farther: 'Tis very surprising that any concerned in this rebellion should lay their engaging in it on the government's doing a necessary and usual act in like cases for its preservation—the giving orders to confine such as were most likely to join in that treason: 'tis hard to believe that any one should rebel, merely to avoid being restrained from rebelling; or that a gentle confinement would not much better have suited a crazy state of health than the fatigues and inconveniences of such long and hasty marches in the depth of winter.

'Your lordship's rising in arms, therefore, has much more justified the prudence and fitness of those orders, than those orders will in any wise serve to mitigate your treason. Alas! happy had it been for all your lordships had you fallen under so indulgent a restraint!

'When your lordships shall, in good earnest, apply yourselves to think impartially on your case, surely you will not yourselves believe that it is possible, in the nature of the thing, to be engaged, and continue so long engaged, in such a difficult and laborious enterprise, through rashness, surprise, or inadvertency; or that, had the attack at Preston been less sudden (and consequently the rebels better prepared to receive it), your lordships had been reduced the sooner, and with

less, if not without any, bloodshed.

'No, my lords, these, and such like, are artful colourings, proceeding from minds filled with expectation of continuing in this world, and not from such as are preparing for their defence before a tribunal, where the thoughts of the heart, and the true springs and causes of action, must be laid open.

'And now, my lords, having thus removed some false colours you have used; to assist you yet farther in that necessary work of thinking on your great offence as you ought, I proceed to touch upon several circumstances that seem greatly to aggravate your crime, and which will deserve your most serious consideration.

'The divine virtues ('tis one of your lordships' own epithets) which all the world, as well as your lordships, acknowledge to be in his majesty, and which you now lay claim to, ought certainly to have withheld your hands from endeavouring to depose, to destroy, to murder, that most excellent prince; so the impeachment speaks, and so the law construes your actions: and this is not only true in the notion of law, but almost always so in deed and reason. 'Tis a trite, but a very true remark, that there are but few hours between kings being reduced under the power of pretenders to their crown and their graves. Had you succeeded, his majesty's case would, I fear, have hardly been an exception to that general rule, since 'tis highly improbable that flight should have saved any of that illustrious and valiant family.

'Tis a further aggravation of your crime that his majesty, whom your lordships would have dethroned, affected not the crown by force, or by the arts of ambition,

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but succeeded peaceably and legally to it; and, on the decease of her late majesty without issue, became undoubtedly the next in course of descent capable of succeeding to the crown, by the law and constitution of this kingdom, as it stood declared some years before the crown was expressly limited to the house of Hanover. This right was acknowledged, and the descent of the crown limited or confirmed accordingly, by the whole legislature in two successive reigns, and more than once in the latter; which your lordships' accomplices are very far from allowing would bias the nation to that side.

'How could it then enter into the heart of man to think that private persons might with a good conscience endeavour to subvert such a settlement, by running to tumultuary arms, and by intoxicating the dregs of the people with contradictory opinions and groundless slanders; or that God's providence would ever prosper such wicked, such ruinous attempts; especially if, in the next place, it be considered, that the most fertile inventions, on the side of the rebellion, have not been able to assign the least shadow of a grievance as the cause of it? To such poor shifts have they been reduced on this head, that, for want of better colours, it has been objected, in a solemn manner, by your lordships' associates, to his majesty's government, that his people do not enjoy the fruits of peace, as our neighbours have done since the last war: thus they first rob us of our peace, and then upbraid us that we have it not. It is a monstrous rebellion, that can find no fault with the government it invades, but what is the effect of the rebellion itself!

'Your lordships will likewise do well to consider what an additional

burden your treason has made it necessary to impose on the people of this kingdom, who wanted, and were about to enjoy, some respite: to this end, 'tis well known that all new, or increase of taxes, were the last year carefully avoided, and his majesty was contented to have no more forces than were just sufficient to attend his person, and shut the gates of a few garrisons.

'But what his majesty thus did, for the ease and quiet of his people, you most ungratefully turned to his disadvantage, by taking encouragement from thence to endanger his and his kingdom's safety, and to bring oppression on your fellow-subjects.

'Your lordships observe I avoid expatiating on the miseries of a civil war—a very large and copious subject; I shall but barely suggest to you, on that head, that whatever those calamities may happen to be, in the present case, all who are, at any time, or in any place, partakers in the rebellion (especially persons of figure and distinction), are in some degree responsible for them: and therefore your lordships must not hold yourselves quite clear from the guilt of those barbarities which have been lately committed by such as are engaged in the same treason with you, and not yet perfectly reduced, in burning the habitations of their countrymen, and thereby exposing many thousands to cold and hunger in this rigorous season.

'I must be so just, to such of your lordships as profess the religion of the church of Rome, as to admit that you had one temptation, and that a great one, to engage you in this treason, which the others had not: in that, it was evident, success on your part must for ever have established Popery in this kingdom, and that probably you could never have again so fair an opportunity.

‘ But then, good God ! how must those Protestants be covered with confusion who entered into the same measures, without so much as capitulating for their religion (that ever I could find, from any examination I have seen or heard), or so much as requiring, much less obtaining, a frail promise that it should be preserved, or even tolerated !

‘ It is my duty to exhort your lordships thus to think of the aggravations, as well as the mitigations (if there be any), of your offences : and if I could have the least hopes that the prejudices of habit and education would not be too strong for the most earnest and charitable entreaties, I would beg you not to rely any longer on those directors of your consciences by whose conduct you have, very probably, been led into this miserable condition ; but that your lordships would be assisted by some of those pious and learned divines of the church of England, who have constantly borne that infallible mark of sincere Christians, universal charity.

‘ And now, my lords, nothing remains but that I pronounce upon you (and sorry I am that it falls to my lot to do it) that terrible sentence of the law, which must be the same that is usually given against the meanest offender in the like kind.

‘ The most ignominious and painful parts of it are usually remitted, by the grace of the crown, to persons of your quality ; but the law, in this case, being deaf to all distinctions of persons, requires I should pronounce, and accordingly it is adjudged by this court,

‘ That you, James Earl of Derwentwater, William Lord Widdrington, William Earl of Nithsdale, Robert Earl of Carnwarth,

William Viscount Kenmure, and William Lord Nairn, and every of you, return to the prison of the Tower, from whence you came ; from thence you must be drawn to the place of execution ; when you come there, you must be hanged by the neck, but not till you be dead ; for you must be cut down alive ; then your bowels must be taken out, and burnt before your faces ; then your heads must be severed from your bodies, and your bodies divided each into four quarters ; and these must be at the king’s disposal. And God Almighty be merciful to your souls.’

After sentence thus passed, the lords were remanded back to the Tower, and on the 18th of February orders were sent to the lieutenant of the Tower and sheriffs for their execution ; and great solicitations were made in favour of them, which not only reached the court, but came down to the two houses of parliament, and petitions were delivered in both, which being backed by some, occasioned debates : that in the House of Commons arose no higher than to occasion a motion for adjournment, thereby to prevent any further interposition there ; but the matter in the House of Peers was carried on with more success, where their petitions were delivered and spoke to, and it was carried by nine or ten voices that the same should be received and read. And the question was put, whether the King had power to reprieve, in case of impeachment ? which being carried in the affirmative, a motion was made to address his majesty to desire him to grant reprieve to the lords under sentence ; but the movers thereof only obtained this clause, viz. ‘ To reprieve such of the condemned lords as deserved his mercy ; and that the time of the

respite should be left to his majesty's discretion.'

To which address his majesty replied,

'That on this, and other occasions, he would do what he thought most consistent with the dignity of his crown, and the safety of his people.'

The great parties they had made, as was said, by the means of money, and also the rash expressions too common in the mouths of many of their friends, as if the government did not dare to execute them, did not a little contribute to the hastening their execution; for on the same day the address was presented, the 23d of February, it was resolved in council, that the Earl of Derwentwater and the Lord Kenmure should be beheaded; and the Earl of Nithsdale, apprehending he should be included in the warrant, made his escape the evening before, in a woman's riding-hood, supposed to have been conveyed to him by his mother on a visit.

In the morning of the 24th of February, three detachments of the life-guards went from Whitehall to Tower-hill, and, having taken their stations round the scaffold, the two lords were brought from the Tower at ten o'clock, and, being received by the sheriffs at the bar, were conducted to the transport-office on Tower-hill; and, at the expiration of about an hour, the Earl of Derwentwater sent word that he was ready; on which Sir John Fryer, one of the sheriffs, walked before him to the scaffold, and, when there, told him he might have what time he pleased to prepare himself for death.

His lordship desired to read a paper which he had written, the substance of which was, that he was sorry for having pleaded guilty; that he acknowledged no king but

James the Third, for whom he had an inviolable affection; and that these kingdoms would never be happy till the ancient constitution was restored, and he wished his death might contribute to that desirable end. His lordship professed to die a Roman Catholic, and in the postscript to his speech said, 'if that prince, who now governs, had given me life, I should have thought myself obliged never more to have taken up arms against him.'

Sir John Fryer desiring to have the paper, he said he had sent a copy of it to his friends, and then delivered it. He then read some prayers out of two small books, and knelt to try how the block would fit his neck. This being done, he had again recourse to his devotions, and, having told the executioner that he forgave him, and likewise forgave all his enemies, he directed him to strike when he should repeat the words 'Sweet Jesus' the third time.

He then kneeled down, and said, 'Sweet Jesus, receive my spirit! Sweet Jesus, be merciful to me! Sweet Jesus!'—and appeared to be proceeding in his prayer, when his head was struck off at one blow; and the executioner, taking it up, exhibited it at the four corners of the scaffold, saying, 'Behold the head of a traitor:—God save King George.'

The body was now wrapped up in black baize, and, being carried to a coach, was delivered to the friends of the deceased; and, the scaffold having been cleared, fresh baize put on the block, and saw dust strewed, that none of the blood might appear, Lord Kenmure was conducted to the scaffold.

His lordship, who was a Protestant, was attended by two clergymen; but he declined saying much, telling one of them that he had pru-

dential reasons for not delivering his sentiments; which were supposed to arise from his regard to Lord Carnwarth, who was his brother-in-law, and was then interceding for the royal mercy; as his talking in the way that Lord Derwentwater had done might be supposed to injure his lordship with those most likely to serve him.

Lord Kenmure having finished his devotions, declared that he forgave the executioner, to whom he made a present of eight guineas. He was attended by a surgeon, who drew his finger over that part of the neck where the blow was to be struck; and, being executed as Lord Derwentwater had been, his body was delivered to the care of an undertaker.

George Earl of Winton, not having pleaded guilty with the other lords, was brought to his trial on the 15th of March, when the principal matter urged in his favour was that he had surrendered at Preston, in consequence of a promise from General Wills to grant him his life: in answer to which it was sworn that no promise of mercy was made, but that the rebels surrendered at discretion.

The Earl of Winton having left his house with fourteen or fifteen of his servants well mounted and armed; his joining the Earl Carnwarth and Lord Kenmure; his proceeding with the rebels through the various stages of their march, and his surrendering with the rest, were circumstances fully proved: notwithstanding which his counsel moved an arrest of judgment: but the plea on which this motion was founded being thought insufficient, his peers unanimously found him guilty; and then the Lord High Steward pronounced sentence on him, after having addressed him in the following forcible terms:—

‘George Earl of Winton, I have acquainted you that your peers have found you guilty; that is, in the terms of the law, convicted you of the high treason whereof you stand impeached: after your lordship has moved an arrest of judgment, and their lordships have disallowed that motion, their next step is to proceed to judgment.

‘The melancholy part I am to bear, in pronouncing that judgment upon you, since it is his Majesty’s pleasure to appoint me to that office, I dutifully submit to it; far, very far, from taking any satisfaction in it.

‘Till conviction, your lordship has been spoke to without the least prejudice, or supposition of your guilt; but now it must be taken for granted, that your lordship is guilty of the high treason whereof you stand impeached.

‘My Lord, this your crime is the greatest known to the law of this kingdom, or of any other country whatsoever, and it is of the blackest and most odious species of that crime—a conspiracy and attempt, manifested by an open rebellion, to depose and murder that sacred person who sustains and is the Majesty of the whole; and from whom, as from a fountain of warmth and glory, are dispensed all the honours, all the dignity, of the state; indeed the lasting and operative life and vigour of the laws, which plainly subsist by a due administration of the executive power.

‘So that attempting this precious life is really striking at the most noble part, the seat of life, and spring of all motion in this government; and may, therefore, properly be called a design to murder not only the king, but also the body politic of this kingdom.

‘And this is most evidently true in your lordship’s case, considering

that success in your treason must infallibly have established Popery, and that never fails to bring with it a civil, as well as ecclesiastical, tyranny; which is quite another sort of constitution than that of this kingdom, and cannot take place till the present is annihilated.

'This your crime (so I must call it) is the more aggravated, in that, where it proceeds so far as to take arms openly, and to make an offensive war against lawful authority, it is generally (as in your case) complicated with the horrid and crying sin of murdering many who are not only innocent but meritorious; and, if pity be due (as I admit it is in some degree) to such as suffer for their own crimes, it must be admitted a much greater share of compassion is owing to them who have lost their lives merely by the crimes of other men.

'As many as have so done in the late rebellion, so many murders have they to answer for who promoted it; and your lordship, in examining your conscience, will be under a great delusion, if you look at those that fell at Preston, Dumblain, or elsewhere, on the side of the laws, and defence of settled order and government, as slain in open lawful battle, even judging of this matter by the law of nations.

'Alas! my Lord, your crime of high treason is yet made redder by shedding a great deal of the best blood in the kingdom; I include in this expression the brave common soldiers, as well as those gallant and heroic officers, who continued faithful to death, in defence of the laws; for sure but little blood can be better than that which is shed while it is warm in the cause of the true religion, and the liberties of its native country.

'I believe it, notwithstanding the unfair arts and industry used to stir

up a pernicious excess of commiseration toward such as have fallen by the sword of justice (few if compared with the numbers of good subjects murdered from doors and windows at Preston only), the life of one honest loyal subject is more precious in the eye of God, and all considering men, than the lives of many rebels and parricides.

'This puts me in mind to observe to your Lordship, that there is another malignity in your Lordship's crime (open rebellion), which consists in this, that it is always sure of doing hurt to a government, in one respect, though it be defeated; (I will not say it does so on the whole matter.)

'For, if the offence is too notorious to be let pass unobserved, by any connivance, then is government reduced to this dilemma: if it be not punished, the state is endangered by suffering examples to appear that it may be attacked with impunity; if it be punished, they who are publicly or privately favourers of the treason (and perhaps some out of mere folly) raise undeserved clamours of cruelty against those in power; or the lowest their malice flies is to make unseasonable, unlimited, and injudicious encomiums upon mercy and forgiveness (things, rightly used, certainly of the greatest excellence).

'And this proceeding, it must be admitted, does harm, with silly and undistinguishing people. So that the rebels have the satisfaction of thinking they hurt the government a little even by their fall.

'The only, but true, consolation every wise government has, in such a case (after it has tempered justice with mercy, in such proportion as sound discretion directs, having always a care of the public safety above all things), is this: that such like seeds of unreasonable discon-

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tents take root on very shallow soil only; and that therefore, after they have made a weak shoot, they soon wither and come to nothing.

'It is well your lordship has given an opportunity of doing the government right, on the subject of your surrender at Preston.

'How confidently had it been given out by the faction, that the surrender was made on assurances, at least hopes, insinuated of pardon. Whereas the truth appears to be, that fear was the only motive to it: the evil day was deferred; and the rebels rightly depended fewer would die at last by the measures they elected than if they had stood an assault. They were awed by the experienced courage, discipline, and steadiness of the king's troops, and by the superior genius and spirit of his majesty's commanders, over those of the rebels: so that, in truth, they were never flattered with any other terms than to surrender as rebels and traitors; their lives only to be spared till his majesty's pleasure should be known.

'It was indeed a debt due to those brave commanders and soldiers (to whom their king and country owe more than can be well expressed) that their victory should be vindicated, to the present and future ages, from untrue detraction, and kept from being sullied by the tongues of rebels and their accomplices, when their arms could no longer hinder it.

'Tis hard to leave this subject without shortly observing, that this engine which sets the world on fire, a lying tongue, has been of prodigious use to the party of the rebels, not only since and during the rebellion, but before, while it was forming, and the rebels preparing for it.

'False facts, false hopes, and false characters, have been the

greater half of the scheme they set out with, and yet seemed to depend upon.

'It has been rightly observed, your lordship's answer does not so much as insist, with any clearness, on that which only could excuse your being taken in open rebellion: that is, you was forced into it, remained so under a force, and would have escaped from it, but could not.

'If you had so insisted, it has been clearly proved that that had not been true; for your lordship was active and forward in many instances, and so considerable in military capacity among your fellow-soldiers, as to command a squadron. These, and other particulars, have been observed by the managers of the House of Commons, and therefore I shall not pursue them further, but conclude this introduction to the sentence, by exhorting your lordship, with perfect charity and much earnestness, to consider that now the time is come when the veil of partiality should be taken from your eyes (it must be so when you come to die), and that your lordship should henceforward think with clearness and indifference (if possible), which must produce in you a hearty detestation of the crime you have committed; and, being a Protestant, be very likely to make you a sincere penitent, for your having engaged in a design that must have destroyed the holy religion you profess, had it taken effect.

'Nothing now remains but that I pronounce upon you that sentence which the law ordains, and which sufficiently shows what thoughts our ancestors had of the crime of which your lordship is now convicted, viz. 'That you George Earl of Winton,' &c.

Soon after the passing this sentence, the Earls of Winton and

Nithsdale found means to escape out of the Tower; and Messrs. Forster and M'Intosh escaped from Newgate: but it was supposed that motives of mercy and tenderness in the Prince of Wales, afterwards George the Second, favored the escape of all these gentlemen.

This rebellion occasioned the untimely death of many other persons. Five were executed at Manchester, six at Wigan, and eleven at Preston; but a considerable num-

ber was brought to London, and, being arraigned in the Court of Exchequer, most of them pleaded guilty, and suffered the utmost rigour of the law.

Some account will be given of the most remarkable of these cases. To each of these desperate and infatuated men the following words of Milton might very justly be applied:

'Bent he seems
On desperate revenge, which shall redound
Upon his own rebellious head.'



Douglas killing his Shipmate.

THOMAS DOUGLAS,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

Thomas Douglas was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of William Sparks, a seaman, at a public house in Wapping.

It appeared, in the course of the evidence, that the parties had been drinking together, till they were intoxicated with liquor, when the pri-

soner took up a knife, and stabbed the other in such a manner that he died on the spot. The atrociousness of the offence was such that Douglas was immediately taken into custody, and, being convicted on the clearest evidence, received sentence of death.

This criminal was born in the county of Berwick, in Scotland, and, having been educated by his parents according to the strictly religious plan prevailing in that country, he was bound apprentice to a sea-faring person at Berwick; and, when he was out of his time, he entered on board a ship in the royal navy, and in this station acquired the character of an expert and valiant seaman.

Having served Queen Anne during several engagements in the Mediterranean and other seas, he returned to England, with Sparks, who was his shipmate, on whom he committed the murder we have mentioned.

After conviction, it was a difficult matter to make Douglas sensible of the enormity of the crime that he had committed; for he supposed that, as he was drunk when he perpetrated the fact, he ought to be considered in the same light as a man who was a lunatic.

This unhappy malefactor suffered at Tyburn, on the 27th of Oct. 1714.

From his fate and sentiments we may learn the following useful instructions. We see that drunkenness is a crime of a very high nature, since it may lead to the commission of the highest. If this man had not been in a state of intoxication, he would probably never have been guilty of murder. We should remember that the bounties of Providence were sent for our

use and sustenance, not to be abused. It is a judicious observation of the ingenious authors of the Spectator, that 'If a man commits murder when he is drunk, he must be hanged for it when he is sober.' It is no excuse for any one to say he was guilty of a crime when drunk, because drunkenness itself is a crime; and what he may deem an excuse is only an aggravation of his offence; since it is acknowledging that he has been guilty of two crimes instead of one.

The conclusion to be drawn from this sad story is, that temperance is a capital virtue; and that drunkenness, as it debauches the understanding, reduces a man below the level of the 'beasts that perish.' The offender before us acknowledged, in his last moments, that it was but the forerunner of other crimes: and, as what happened to him may be the case with others, as drunkenness produces quarrels, and quarrels lead to murder, we hope the case of this unhappy man will impress on the minds of our readers the great importance of temperance and sobriety. We see that Douglas had received a very religious education; yet even this was inadequate to preserve him from the fatal effects of a casual intoxication! When men drink too much, and in consequence thereof assault and wound their companions, we may say, in the words of the poet, that

'Death is in the bowl.'

ROBERT WHITTY, FELIX O'HARA, & JOSEPH SULLIVAN, EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

When the Earl of Mar and other Scotch noblemen planned the rebellion of 1715, they sent these three men to London, for the purpose of endeavouring to enlist soldiers for the Pretender's service; and, though the business in which they were en-

gaged was of the most dangerous nature, yet they continued it for some time; but were at length apprehended, brought to trial, and, being convicted, were executed at Tyburn, on the 28th of May, 1715.

Robert Whitty was born in Ire-

land, and, having enlisted for a soldier when young, served in an English regiment in Spain, where being wounded, he was brought to England, and received the bounty of Chelsea College as an out-pensioner.

Felix O'Hara, who was about twenty-nine years of age, was likewise an Irishman, and, having lived some time in Dublin as a waiter at a tavern, he saved some money, and entered into business for himself; but, that not answering as he could have wished, he came to London.

Joseph Sullivan was a native of Munster, in Ireland, and about the same age as O'Hara. He had for some time served in the Irish brigades, but, obtaining his discharge, he came to England, and was thought a fit agent to engage in the business which cost him and his companions their lives.

These men denied, at the time of their trial, that they had been guilty of any crime; and even at the place of execution they attempted to defend their conduct. They all died professing the Roman Catholic religion.

JOHN GORDON, WILLIAM KERR, & JOHN DORRELL,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

ALL the particulars we have been able to learn respecting these men are as follow. They had all of them served as officers in the army during the wars in the reign of Queen Anne, but they were zealous friends to the cause of the Pretender.

Having learnt that the rebels had got as far as Lancashire, they appear to have been animated with the hope that success would attend the enterprise; whereupon they held several meetings at a public house in Shoe Lane, London, where they agreed to set off for different parts of the country, to enlist some men to promote the undertaking; and they bound themselves to each other

by the most solemn oaths to keep their transactions secret.

But they defeated the effects of these oaths almost the moment they took them; for they met so often, and were so careless of what they said, that they were heard by persons who listened at the door of their room; in consequence of which information was given, and they were taken into custody, tried, and, being convicted on full evidence, were hanged and quartered at Tyburn, on the 7th of Dec. 1715.

They were the first persons that suffered on account of the rebellion, professed themselves Roman Catholics, and died denying the justice of the sentence against them.

COLONEL HENRY OXBURGH,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

Henry Oxburgh, Esq. the son of a man of considerable property in Lancashire, having been educated in the most rigid principles of the Roman Catholic religion, was sent abroad, while a youth, into the service of France, in which he acquired the character of a brave and gallant officer.

At the close of the war he returned to England to see his friends; and, finding that the rebels were advancing southwards, he raised a regiment, with which he joined the main army before it reached Preston. Colonel Oxburgh was the man who ordered the rebels to fire on the royal troops; and, if his opi-

nion had been taken, the town would not have surrendered as soon as it did.

On his trial he pleaded guilty; but, after sentence was passed on him, and he found that every application for mercy was unsuccessful, he talked in a strain very different from that of a man conscious of any crime. He said he consi-

dered the Pretender as his lawful sovereign, and never deemed himself the subject of any other prince. He even asserted that he would have been equally loyal to the Pretender if he had been a Protestant.

This unhappy man, who seems to have fallen a victim to the prejudices of education, was hanged at Tyburn, on the 14th of May, 1716.

RICHARD GASCOIGNE,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THIS unfortunate man was singularly active in fomenting the rebellion. So zealous was he in the cause, that he mortgaged his whole estate to supply him with money to purchase arms from foreign countries.

When the rebels marched towards the south of England, he engaged all the forces he could, and went and joined them, proclaiming the Pretender king at every stage of his march. He was made prisoner by the king's troops at Preston, at the same time as Colonel Oxburgh; and, being arraigned before Lord Chief Justice King, in Westminster Hall, he pleaded 'not guilty.'

On his trial it was proved that

some casks of arms, which he had purchased abroad, were found on board a ship, directed to him; and, being found guilty on the clearest evidence, sentence of death was passed on him, in consequence of which he was executed at Tyburn, on the 25th of May, 1716.

While he lay under sentence of death, his sentiments appeared to be nearly the same as those of Colonel Oxburgh; and at the place of execution he declared that he did not take up arms with a view to restore the Roman Catholic religion, but solely in behalf of James the Third, whom he deemed his lawful sovereign.

THE REVEREND WILLIAM PAUL,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

MR. PAUL was born of reputable parents, near Lutterworth, in Leicestershire; and, having been educated for the pulpit, took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at St. John's College, Cambridge. After officiating as a chaplain for two clergymen, the Bishop of Oxford presented him to the vicarage of Orton, in his native county, to which he was instituted in the year 1709.

The rebels having reached Preston, Mr. Paul began a journey to meet them; but was apprehended *on suspicion*, and carried before Colonel Noel, a justice of the

peace, who, finding no just cause of detention, dismissed him; on which he continued his journey to Preston, where he read prayers to the rebels three days successively, and prayed for the Pretender, by the name of King James, in the parish church.

A short time before the national forces reached Preston, Mr. Paul quitted that place; and, coming to London, disguised himself by wearing coloured clothes, a sword, a laced hat, and a full-bottomed wig.

But he had not been long in this disguise before he was met by Mr. Bird, a justice of the peace for

Leicestershire, who caused him to be taken into custody, and carried to the house of the Duke of Devonshire, who sent him to the secretary of state for examination ; but, as he refused to make any confession, he was delivered to the custody of one of the king's messengers, with whom he remained about a fortnight, and was then committed to Newgate.

He was arraigned at Westminster on the 31st of May, and pleaded not guilty : on which he was remanded to Newgate, and had time allowed him to prepare his defence. On his return to prison, he sent for a friend ; to whom he said, ' What must I do ? I have been this day arraigned, and pleaded not guilty ; but that will not avail, for too much will be proved against me.' To this his friend replied, ' I will persuade you to nothing ; but, in my opinion, the best way is to confess your fault, ask pardon, and throw yourself on the king's mercy.' Mr. Paul said his counsel advised the same, and he was resolved to do so ; and, when he was again brought to the bar, he retracted his former plea, and pleaded guilty ; in consequence of which sentence of death was passed on him.

Being sent back to prison, he made every possible interest for the preservation of his life ; for he seemed to have a most singular dread of death, particularly when attended with such disgraceful circumstances as he had reason to apprehend. He wrote a petition to the king, another to the lord chief justice, and letters to the Archbishop of Canterbury, with other letters to clergymen ; in all of which he acknowledged his crime, and his change of sentiments, and interceded for mercy in terms of the most abject humiliation.

In a letter to a female relation, he says, ' I am among the number of those that are to suffer next Friday.—I cannot think of dying the death of a dog, by the hands of a common executioner, with any manner of patience. Transportation, perpetual imprisonment, or any other condition of life, will be infinitely preferable to so barbarous and insupportable a way of ending it ; and means must be found for preventing, or I shall anticipate, the ignominy of the halter, by laying violent hands on myself. Give Mr. C——r to understand that he may promise any thing that he shall think fit in my name ; and that his Royal Highness the Prince and his Council shall have no cause to repent of their mercy to me.'

All Mr. Paul's petitions, however, proved fruitless ; he was ordered for execution, and was attended by a nonjuring clergyman, who endeavoured to inspire him with an idea of the justice of the cause for which he was to yield his life : he was, however, dreadfully affected till within a few days of his death, when he began to assume a greater degree of courage.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of July, 1716, being attended by a nonjuring clergyman, having declined the assistance of the Ordinary of Newgate. Just before the cart drew away he made a speech, of which the following is a copy :

' Good People,

' I am just going to make my appearance in the other world, where I must give an account of all the actions of my past life ; and, though I have endeavoured to make my peace with God, by sincerely repenting of all my sins, yet, forasmuch as several of them were of a public nature, I take it to be my duty to declare here, in the face of

the world, my hearty abhorrence and detestation of them.

'And, first, I ask pardon of God and the king, for having violated my loyalty, by taking most abominable oaths, in defence of usurpation, against my lawful sovereign King James the Third.

'And, as I ask pardon of all-whom I have injured or offended, so I do especially desire forgiveness of all those whom I have scandalized by pleading guilty. I am sensible it is a base and dishonorable action, that it is inconsistent with my duty to the king, and an entire surrender of my loyalty. Human frailty, and too great a desire of life, together with the persuasion of several, who pretended to be my friends, were the occasion of it. I trust God, of his infinite mercy, has forgiven me, and I hope all good Christians will.

'You see, my countrymen, by my habit, that I die a son, though a very unworthy one, of the Church of England; but I would not have you think I am a member of the schismatical Church, whose bishops set themselves up in opposition to those orthodox fathers who were unlawfully and invalidly deprived by the Prince of Orange. I declare that I renounce that communion, and that I die a dutiful and faithful member of the nonjuring church, which has kept itself free from rebellion and schism, and has preserved and maintained true orthodox principles both as to church and state; and I desire the clergy, and all members of the Revolution Church, to consider what bottom they stand upon, when their succession is grounded upon an unlawful and invalid deprivation of Catholic bishops, the only foundation of which deprivation is a pretended act of parliament.

'Having asked forgiveness for myself, I come now to forgive

others. I pardon those who, under a notion of friendship, persuaded me to plead guilty. I heartily forgive all my most inveterate enemies, especially the Elector of Hanover, my Lord Townsend, and others, who have been instrumental in promoting my death. Father, forgive them! Lord Jesus, have mercy upon them! and lay not this sin to their charge.

'The next thing I have to do, Christian friends, is to exhort you all to return to your duty. Remember that King James the Third is your only rightful sovereign, by the laws of the land and the constitution of the kingdom; and, therefore, if you would perform the duty of justice to him which is due to all mankind, you are obliged, in conscience, to do all you can to restore him to his crown; for it is his right; and no man in the world, besides himself, can claim a title to it. And, as it is your duty to serve him, so it is your interest; for, till he is restored, the nation can never be happy. You see what miseries and calamities have befallen this nation by the revolution; and I believe you are now convinced, by woeful experience, that swerving from God's laws, and thereby putting yourselves out of his protection, is not the way to secure you from those evils and misfortunes you are afraid of in this world. Before the revolution, you thought your religion, liberties, and properties, in danger; and I pray you to consider how you have preserved them by rebelling: are they not ten times more precarious than ever? who can say he is certain of his life or estate, when he considers the proceedings of the present administration? and, as for your religion, is it not evident that the revolution, instead of keeping out Popery, has let in Atheism? Do not heresies

abound every day? and are not the teachers of false doctrine patronised by the great men in the government? This shows the kindness and affection they have for the church; and, to give you another instance of the respect and reverence they have for it, you are now going to see a priest of the Church of England murdered for doing his duty; for it is not me they strike at so particularly, but it is through me they would wound the priesthood, bring a disgrace upon the gown, and a scandal upon my sacred function. But they would do well to remember that he who despises Christ's priests despises Christ; and he who despises him despises him that sent him.

'And now, beloved, if you have any regard to your country, which lies bleeding under these dreadful extremities, bring the king to his undoubted right: that is the only way to be freed from these misfortunes, and to secure all those rights and privileges which are in danger at present. King James has promised to protect and defend the Church of England; he has given his royal word to consent to such laws which you yourselves shall think necessary to be made for its preservation. And his majesty is a prince of that justice, virtue, and honour, that you have no reason to doubt of the performance of his royal promise. He studies nothing so much as to make you all easy and happy; and, whenever he comes

to his kingdom, I doubt not but you will be so.

'I shall be heartily glad, good people, if what I have said has any effect upon you, so as to be instrumental in making you perform your duty. It is out of my power now to do any thing more to serve the king than by employing some of the few minutes I have to live in this world in praying Almighty God to shower down his blessings, spiritual and temporal, upon his head, to protect and restore him, to be favorable to his undertaking, to prosper him here, and to reward him hereafter. I beseech the same infinite goodness to protect and defend the Church of England, and to restore it to all its just rights and privileges; and, lastly, I pray God to have mercy upon me, pardon my sins, and receive my soul into his everlasting kingdom, that, with the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, I may praise and magnify him for ever and ever. Amen.

'As to my body, brethren, I have taken no care of it, for I value not that barbarous part of my sentence, of being cut down and quartered. When I am once gone I shall be out of the reach of my enemies; and I wish I had quarters enough to send to every parish in the kingdom, to testify that a clergyman of the Church of England was martyred for being loyal to his king.

'WM. PAUL.

'July 13, 1716.'

JOHN HALL, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

JOHN Hall, Esq. was a justice of the peace for the county of Northumberland, and, having been taken prisoner with the other rebels at Preston, was brought to London, and indicted for having joined, aided, and abetted, the rebels.

Two evidences deposed that he was seen at different places with the rebels: but, in his defence, he said that, having been to a meeting of the justices at Plainfield, he had lodged at a friend's house; and that, on the following day, while

he was stooping on his horse's neck, to screen himself from the tempestuous weather, himself and his servant were surrounded by the rebels, who forced them away; and that he was unarmed, and had only seven shillings and sixpence in his possession.

Though this circumstance was sworn to by Mr. Hall's servant, yet the Court, in the charge to the jury, observed that, 'If a man was seen with rebels, if it appeared that he had frequent opportunities of escaping, and did not do it, but continued by his presence to abet and comfort them, it was treason within the meaning of the law.'

Now, as it appeared in evidence that Mr. Hall had liberty to ride out when he pleased, and did not seem to be restrained, the jury found him guilty; and, when the Court passed sentence on him, he said, 'God's will be done.'

After conviction he was attended by a nonjuring clergyman, and behaved with manly fortitude under his misfortunes: however, he made such interest that he obtained five short reprieves, and might possibly have been pardoned, but that, having written the following speech some weeks before his death, the knowledge thereof is supposed to have reached the Court; for, when a nobleman made application for a pardon, he was answered, 'By no means, my good lord: it were a pity Mr. Hall should lose the opportunity of leaving such a speech behind him as he gives out will raise the spirits of the whole nation to be of the same mind with him, and will be instrumental in bringing in the person whom he calls his lawful sovereign, King James III.'

Mr. Hall was executed at the same time and place with Mr. Paul; and, a few minutes before he was turned off, he delivered a

paper to the sheriff, which is as follows:—

'Friends, Brethren, and Countrymen,

'I am come here to die, for the sake of God, my king, and my country; and I heartily rejoice that I am counted worthy of so great an honour: for let not any of you think that I am come to a shameful and ignominious end: the truth and justice of the cause for which I suffer make my death a duty, a virtue, and an honour. Remember that I lay down my life for asserting the right of my only lawful sovereign, King James III.; that I offer myself a victim for the liberties and happiness of my dear country, and my beloved fellow-subjects; that I fall a sacrifice to tyranny, oppression, and usurpation. In short, consider that I suffer in the defence of the command of God and the laws, and hereditary constitution of the land; and then know, and be assured, that I am not a traitor, but a martyr.

'I declare that I die a true and sincere member of the Church of England, but not of the revolution schismatical Church, whose bishops have so rebelliously abandoned the king, and so shamefully given up the rights of the church, by submitting to the unlawful invalid lay-deprivations of the Prince of Orange. The communion I die in is that of the true Catholic nonjuring Church of England, and I pray God to prosper and increase it, and to grant (if it be his good pleasure) that it may rise again, and flourish.

'I heartily beg pardon of all whom I have in any manner, and at any time, injured and offended. I do particularly implore forgiveness of God and my king for having so far swerved from my duty as to comply with the usurpation, in swearing allegiance to it, and act-

ing in public posts by the usurper's commissions, which were void of all power and authority. God knows my heart: I did this at first through ignorance and error, but, after I had recollected myself, and informed my judgment better, I repented, and drew my sword for the king, and now submit myself to this violent death for his sake. I heartily pray God my patience and my sufferings may atone for my former crime; and this I beg through the merits, mediation, and sufferings, of my dearest Saviour, Jesus Christ.

'I do sincerely forgive all my enemies, especially those who have either caused or increased the destruction in church or state; I pray God to have mercy upon them, and spare them, because they are the works of his own hands, and because they are redeemed with his Son's most precious blood. I do particularly forgive, from the bottom of my heart, the Elector of Brunswick, who murders me; my unjust pretended judges and jury, who convicted and condemned me; Mr. Patten and Carnaby, evidences who swore against me at my trial. And I do here declare, upon the words of a dying man (and all my Northumberland fellow-prisoners can testify the same), that the evidence they gave was so far from being the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, that, in relation to my indictment, they swore not one true thing against me, but many absolute falsehoods. I pray God forgive them, for I am sure I do.

'Lastly, I forgive all who had a hand in the surrender at Preston, for they have surrendered away my life; and I would to God that were the only bad consequence of it. But, alas! it is too plain that the surrenderers not only ruined many of his majesty's brave and faithful

subjects, but gave up their king and country into the bargain: for it was then in their power to have restored the king with triumph to his throne, and thereby to have made us a happy people. We had repulsed our enemies at every attack, and were ready, willing, and able, to have attacked them.

'On our side, even our common men were brave, courageous, and resolute; on the other hand, theirs were directly the contrary, inso-much that, after they had run away from our first fire, they could never be brought so much as to endeavour to stand a second. This I think myself obliged in justice to mention, that Mr. Wills may not impose upon the world, as if he and his troops had conquered us, and gained the victory; for the truth is, after we had conquered them, our superiors thought fit to capitulate and ruin us: I wish them God's and the king's pardon for it.

'May it please God to bless, preserve, and restore our only rightful and lawful sovereign, King James the Third; may he direct his counsels, and prosper his arms; may he bring him to his kingdom, and set the crown upon his head.

'May he protect him from the malice of his enemies, and defend him from those who for a reward would slay him innocent! May he grant him in health and wealth long to live; may he strengthen him, that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally, when it pleases his infinite wisdom to take him out of this world, may he take him to himself, and reward him with an everlasting crown of glory in the next.

'These, my beloved countrymen, are the sincere prayers, these the last words, of me who am now a dying person; and if you have any regard to the last words of one

who is just going out of the world, let me beg of you to be dutiful, obedient, and loyal, to your only sovereign liege lord, King James the Third; be ever ready to serve him, and be sure you never fail to use all your endeavours to restore him: and, whatever the consequence be, remember that you have a good cause and a gracious God, and expect a recompense from him.

To that God, the God of truth and holiness, the rewarder of all who suffer for righteousness sake, I commend my soul, beseeching him to have mercy upon it, for the sake of my dear Redeemer and merciful Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen, Amen, Amen.

'July 13, 1716. 'JOHN HALL.'
'Postscript.

'I might reasonably have expected my life would have been

saved, since I had obtained five reprieves; but I find that the Duke of Hanover, and his evil counsellors who guide him, have so little virtue and honour themselves, that they are resolved not to spare my life, because I would not purchase it upon base and dishonorable terms. I have reason to think that, at first, I could have secured my life and fortune, if I would have pleaded guilty; and I doubt not but I might since have obtained favour, if I would have petitioned in a vile scandalous manner: but I was resolved to do nothing whereby I should have disowned my king, and denied my principles; and I thank my good God, both for inspiring me with this holy resolution, and for giving me the grace to perform it.

'July 13, 1716. 'JOHN HALL.'

JAMES GOODMAN,

EXECUTED FOR HORSE-STEALING, &c.

Was a native of Little Harwood, in Buckinghamshire, and served his time to a carpenter at Aylesbury. After he was out of his time, he and two other young men agreed to have a venison pasty, and make merry; in consequence of which they stole a deer; but, being taken into custody, one of them turned evidence, whereupon Goodman and the other were imprisoned a year in Aylesbury gaol.

After his enlargement he married and entered into business, which he carried on with success for about nine years; but, becoming fond of idle company, he was soon so reduced in circumstances, that he brought himself and family to ruin.

Coming to London, he got into company with one Stephens, with whom he agreed to commit robberies on the highway. Pursuant to this plan they stopped Philip

White, between Stratford and Ilford in Essex, and robbed him of his horse, one shilling, and his spurs.

Four days after this robbery, Mr. White saw Goodman on his horse at Bow, in the company of Stephens, who was likewise on horseback. Hereupon Mr. White sent his servant to demand his horse; on which the robbers galloped off, but were immediately pursued by Mr. White and his man. Finding themselves hard pressed, they quitted their horses, and ran into the field; on which Mr. White gave his servant a gun, and bid him follow them. He did so; on which one of them fired twice, and said, 'Damn it, we'll kill or be killed; we won't be taken alive; our lives are as good as theirs.' On this Mr. White's servant fired his gun, which was loaded with

pebble-stones, and, striking Goodman on the head, he was so stunned that he was easily taken; and, some other persons now coming up, one of them drew a hanger, and pursued Stephens, who submitting after a short resistance, both the prisoners were conveyed to Newgate.

Stephens having been admitted an evidence against Goodman, the latter was brought to his trial, when he endeavoured to prove that he was in another place when the robbery was committed, and that he had purchased Mr. White's horse; but the jury found him guilty, as they did not believe the testimony of his witnesses.

After conviction he was put into the bail-dock, in order to receive sentence; but the night being dark, and being assisted by some other prisoners, he got over the spikes, and, though he was loaded with irons, effected his escape.

But it was not long before he was retaken, owing to a very singular circumstance. While in custody, he delivered some money to a carrier to take into the country to a woman with whom he had cohabited; but the carrier, considering his situation, kept the money for his own use.

Wherefore, about a month after his escape, Goodman went to an alehouse in Holborn, and sent to a lawyer, to concert with him how to recover the money of the carrier; but some persons in the house, happening to know him, went to Newgate, and informed the keepers where he was; on which he was taken into custody, after a desperate resistance; and, at the end of the

next sessions at the Old Bailey, he received sentence of death.

While he lay in this deplorable situation, he acknowledged his guilt, confessed he had committed many robberies, lamented the iniquities of his past life, and wished he could make reparation to those whom he had injured. He was executed at Tyburn, on the 12th of March, 1716.

The fate of this malefactor will afford an useful lesson to persons somewhat advanced in life. After having been nine years in a successful business, the keeping of bad company induced him to his ruin. Hence we may learn the folly of departing from the sober comforts of domestic felicity, to keep company with drunkards, and riot in debauchery. The circumstance of Goodman's being seen at Bow, on the very horse he had stolen but a few days before, on the same road, shows the folly that, almost in every instance, attends thieves. They are generally detected by some omission or carelessness of their own, which even a child would blush to be guilty of; but the fact is that villainy is frequently off its guard, and the eye of Providence is ever watchful to bring the guilty to justice.

This doctrine cannot be set in a clearer light than by Goodman's going to advise with a lawyer how to recover the money of the carrier; not reflecting that he himself was a dead man, in the eye of the law, at the very time of making this application, which led so soon to his own destruction. Hence we see the emphatical force of that text of scripture, 'The wicked is taken in his own snare.'

JOHN HAMILTON, ESQ.

BEHEADED FOR THE MURDER OF THOMAS ARKLE.

THE philosopher Plato says that gaming was invented by a certain devil called Thouth, who afterwards instructed Thamus, king of Egypt, in the tricks of play. Cards were invented to amuse a puny Dauphin

of France, but are now become a common medium of robbery in the hands of sharpers. Cyrus and Alexander admired hunting; Cicero played with a kitten; Socrates found recreation in galloping about on a hobby-horse with children; Plato turned pedlar; Posidonius, the stoic philosopher, under the most violent paroxysms of the gout, would only smile and say, 'Pain! all thy obliging services are to no purpose; thou may'st be a little troublesome; but I will never own thee for an evil.' Shakspeare says, 'All mankind to some lov'd ills incline;' but woe to him whose propensities lead him to drinking and gaming. Aristotle treats gamblers as thieves, pickpockets, and robbers, and these annals of crime sufficiently corroborate the opinions of the philosophers of old.

Mr. Hamilton was born in the county of Clydesdale, and was related to the ducal family of Hamilton. His parents, to whom he was an only son, sent him to Glasgow to study the law; but, the young gentleman's disposition leading him to the profession of arms, his friends exerted their interest to procure a commission; but the intervention of the crime of which we are about to relate the particulars prevented their generous intention from taking effect.

Young Hamilton soon becoming connected with some abandoned young gentlemen at Edinburgh, he lost considerable sums at gaming; and, going to his parents for more, they supplied him for the present, but said they would not advance him any further sums while he continued his dissipated course of life.

Being possessed of this money, Hamilton went to a village near Glasgow, to meet his companions at a public house kept by Thomas *Arkle*. *Having drank and gamed*

for several successive days and nights, Hamilton's companions withdrew while he was asleep, leaving him to discharge the bill, which exceeding his ability, a quarrel ensued between him and *Arkle*, and, while they contended, *Arkle* stripped Hamilton's sword of the scabbard.—The latter immediately ran away; but, finding he had no scabbard to his sword, he instantly went back to the house, when, *Arkle* calling him several scandalous names, he stabbed him so that he immediately expired.

The daughter of *Arkle*, being present, attempted to seize Hamilton; in doing which she tore off the skirt of his coat, which was left on the floor, together with his sword, on his effecting a second escape. This daughter of *Arkle* was almost blind; but her keeping the sword and the skirt of the coat proved the means of bringing Hamilton to justice.

The murderer, having gone to Leith, embarked on board a ship, and landed in Holland, where he continued two years; but his parents dying in the interval, he returned to Scotland, when he was taken into custody on account of the murder.

On his trial, he pleaded that he was intoxicated at the time the fact was committed; to which he was instigated by the extreme ill usage he had received from *Arkle*.—The jury, not allowing the force of these arguments, found him guilty, and he was beheaded by the maiden, on the 30th of June, 1716. This instrument of death, from which the guillotine in France was constructed, we have already described, in the case of Alexander Balfour.

Mr. Hamilton's case will teach us to reflect on the sad consequences of keeping bad company, and an attachment to gaming. But for

these vices, he might have lived happy in himself, and a credit to the worthy family from which he was descended. The youth who will devote those hours to the gaming-table which he ought to employ in the honest advancement of his fortune can expect only to be reduced to beggary at the best: but, in a thousand instances, as well as the

present, the consequences have been much more fatal.

Hence let young gentlemen learn to shun the gaming-table as they would a pestilence, to proceed in the plain path of honour and integrity, and to know that there can be no true happiness in a departure from the line of virtue!

JOSEPH STILL,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS man came to London in search of a livelihood, and for some time maintained himself by selling poultry in the streets; but, growing weary of that employment, he enlisted into the army, in which he continued nine years; but, having obtained his discharge, he became acquainted with a set of thieves, who committed depredations in the neighbourhood of London; and, being apprehended, he was tried at the Old Bailey, and whipped.

Soon after he obtained his liberty, he returned to his former way of life; and, being taken into custody in Hertfordshire, he was tried, convicted, and punished by burning in the hand. After this he began the practice of robbing highers on the highway, and he obtained the appellation of Chicken Joe, from his singular dexterity in that employment.

After continuing in this way of life a considerable time, he commenced footpad, and committed a great number of robberies on the roads near town, escaping detection for a long while, on account of his wearing a mask over his face.

At length almost all his companions were hanged, and he was reduced to such distress, that he went once more on the road to supply himself with the means of procuring the necessaries of life. Having drank at an alehouse in Kings-

land Road till his spirits were somewhat elevated, he proceeded to Stoke Newington, and, after sauntering a while in the fields, without meeting with any person whom he durst venture to attack, he went into Queen Elizabeth's Walk, behind the church, where he saw a gentleman's servant, whose money he demanded. The servant, being determined not to be robbed, contested the matter with Still, and, a battle ensuing, the villain drew a knife, and stabbed the footman through the body.

He immediately ran away; but, some people coming by while the footman was sensible enough to tell them what had happened, Still was pursued, taken, and brought to the spot where the other was expiring; and, being searched, the bloody knife with which he had committed the deed was found in his pocket. The man died after declaring that Still was the murderer; and the latter was committed to Newgate; and, being indicted at the Old Bailey, the jury did not scruple to find him guilty, in consequence of which he received sentence of death, and was executed on Stamford Hill, on the 22d of March, 1717.

The progression of this malefactor seems to have been very gradual, from smaller to greater crimes, till at length his life paid the forfeit for one of the most enormous. Hence

majesty King George, in order to place a Popish Pretender on his throne.

'It is very surprising that one so young in years should attempt so wicked an enterprise; and it is more amazing that you should still thus defend and justify it, and not only think that there is no harm in it, but that the action, if committed, would have been meritorious.

'It was reasonable to think that you had received those impressions which incited you to this undertaking from some of those false and malicious libels which have been industriously dispersed, to delude unwary readers, and to alienate the minds of his majesty's subjects; and it appears to be so from your own confession, that you had imbibed your principles from sermons and pamphlets, which make you think King George an usurper, and the Pretender your lawful king.

'Consider, unhappy young man, whether you may not be in an error; and what I now suggest to you is not to reproach you, or to aggravate your crime, but proceeds from compassion, and with a regard to your further consideration before you go out of the world; that you may be convinced of your error, and retract it.

'The notions you entertain are contrary to the sense of the nation; who found by experience that their religion, their laws, and liberties, were in imminent danger from a Popish prince; and therefore they rescued themselves from that danger, and excluded Papists for the future from the crown, and settled it on his majesty and his heirs, being Protestants; which has been confirmed by many parliaments, and the nation feels the good effects of so happy an establishment.

'It seems strange that you should *hint at a passage in St. Paul for your*

justification. If he exhorted the Christians to submit to the Roman emperors, even though they should be tyrants, how comes it that you, a private youth, should not only judge of the title of kings, in opposition to the sense of so many parliaments; but that you should think yourself authorized to murder a prince in peaceable possession of the throne, and by whom his subjects are protected in the enjoyment of all their rights and privileges, and of every thing that is dear and valuable to mankind?

'You mention in your papers as if you must expect the most cruel tortures. No, unfortunate youth, the king you will not own uses no cruel tortures to his subjects. He is king according to the laws of the land, and by them he governs: and as you have transgressed those laws in the highest degree, the public justice requires that you should submit to the sentence ordained for such an offender; which is—

'That you be led from hence to the place from whence you came; from thence you are to be drawn upon a hurdle to the place of execution, and there you are to be hanged by the neck; and, being alive, to be cut down, your bowels to be taken out of your belly, and there burnt, you being alive: your head is to be cut off, and your body to be divided into four quarters; and your head and quarters to be disposed of as his majesty shall think fit. And God Almighty have mercy on your soul.'

After sentence was passed, Shepard confessed that the reading some sermons, and other pamphlets, had induced him to think that it would be a meritorious act to kill the king; and that he was convinced he was the agent destined by Providence to accomplish the deed.—The Ordinary of Newgate told him that

he should have prayed that such wicked sentiments might be removed from his mind. His reply was, that 'he had prayed; and that, in proportion as he prayed, he was so much the more encouraged and confirmed in the lawfulness of his design.'

The unhappy youth was now visited by a nonjuring clergyman, between whom and the Ordinary there were repeated quarrels, which continued almost to the last mo-

ments of Sheppard's life; for they wrangled even at the place of execution; nor did the debate cease till the Ordinary quitted the cart, and left the other to instruct and pray with the malefactor as he thought proper.

Sheppard was executed at Tyburn a few hours after the Marquis of Paleotti, on the 17th of March, 1718.

Short is the day in which ill acts prevail,
But honesty's a rock will never fail.



Marquis de Paleotti stabbing his servant.

THE MARQUIS DE PALEOTTI,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS SERVANT.

This rash man was the head of a noble family in Italy, and, like Colonel Hamilton, was brought to a disgraceful death, through the vice of gaming, with all the aggravated horrors of suffering in a strange country; thus doubly disgracing the honours of his house.

Ferdinando Marquis de Paleotti

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was born at Bologna, in Italy, and in the reign of Queen Anne was a colonel in the Imperial army.

The cause of his coming to England arose from the following circumstance:—The Duke of Shrewsbury, being at Rome in the latter end of King William's reign, fell in love with, and paid his addresses to, the

sister of Paleotti; and the lady following the Duke to Augsburgh in Germany, they were there married, after she had first renounced the Roman Catholic religion. The duchess residing with her husband in England, and the marquis having quitted the Imperial army on the peace of Utrecht, he came to this country to see his sister.

Being fond of an extravagant course of life, and attached to gaming, he soon ran in debt for considerable sums. His sister paid his debts for some time, till she found it would be a burdensome and endless task. Though she declined to assist him as usual, he continued his former course of life till he was imprisoned for debt; but his sister privately procured his liberty, and he was discharged without knowing who had conferred the favour on him.

After his enlargement, he adopted his old plan of extravagance; and, being one day walking in the street, he directed his servant, an Italian, to go and borrow some money. The servant, having met with frequent denials, declined going: on which the Marquis drew his sword, and killed him on the spot.

Being instantly apprehended, he was committed to prison, tried at

the next sessions, and, being convicted on full evidence, he received sentence of death. The Duke of Shrewsbury being dead, and his duchess having little interest or acquaintance in England, it appears as if no endeavours were used to save the marquis, who suffered at Tyburn on the 17th of March, 1718.

Italian pride had taken deep root in the mind of this man. He declared it to be disgraceful to his country to put a nobleman to death, like a common malefactor, for killing his servant; and lamented that our churches, as in Italy, did not afford a sanctuary for murderers. Englishmen, however, are thankful that neither of this marquis's desires prevail in their country, where the law makes no distinction in offenders. To his last moment this pride of aristocracy was predominant in his mind. He petitioned the sheriffs that his body should not be defiled by touching the unhappy Englishmen doomed to suffer with him, and that he might die before them, and alone. The sheriffs, in courtesy to a stranger, granted this request, and thus, in his last struggle, he maintained the superiority of his rank.—Vain man! of what avail were his titles in the presence of the Almighty?

JOHN PRICE, COMMONLY CALLED JACK KETCH,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF ELIZABETH WHITE.

WHEN we commenced our labours among the musty records of criminal convictions, little did we imagine that we should find the public executioner, vulgarly called Jack Ketch, to have been himself suspended on that fatal tree to which he had tied up such a number of sinners. Here have we the fullest proof of the hardness of heart created by repeatedly witnessing

executions. The dreadful fate attending those who had died by his hands, their sufferings of mind, confessions and exhortations to the spectators to be warned by their example against the violation of the law, it seems, had no effect on Jack Ketch.

The callous wretch who, in the year 1718, filled this office, was named John Price. He was born

In the parish of St. Martin's in the Fields, London, of reputable parents; his father having been in the service of his country, but unfortunately blown up at the demolishing of Tangier. From her loss, the widow was reduced to poverty, which rendered her unable of giving an education to her orphan children: but she succeeded in putting John apprentice to a dealer in rags; a business by which he might have earned an honest livelihood. When he had served two years of his apprenticeship his master died, and soon after he ran away from his mistress, and got employment in the loading of waggons with rags for other dealers. He then went to sea, and served with credit, on board different ships in the royal navy, for the space of eighteen years; but at length was paid off and discharged from further service.

The office of public executioner becoming vacant, it was given to Price, who, but for his extravagance, might have long continued in it, and subsisted on its dreadfully-earned wages. On returning from an execution, in the cart which had delivered some criminals into his hands, he was arrested in Holborn for debt, which he discharged, in part, with the wages he had that day earned, and the remainder from the produce of three suits of clothes, which he had taken from the bodies of the executed men. Not long afterwards he was lodged in the Marshalsea prison for other debts, and there remained for want of bail; in consequence whereof, being unable to attend his business at the next sessions of the Old Bailey, one William Marvel was appointed in his stead.

Having continued some time longer in the Marshalsea, he and a fellow-prisoner broke a hole in the wall, through which they made their

escape; and soon after this Price committed the horrid murder for which his life paid the forfeit.

John Price was indicted at the Old Bailey on the 24th of April, 1718, for the murder of Elizabeth, the wife of William White, on the 13th of the preceding month.

In the course of the evidence it appeared that Price met the deceased near ten at night in Moorfields, and attempted to ravish her; but the poor woman (who was the wife of a watchman, and sold gingerbread in the streets) doing all in her power to resist his villainous attacks, he beat her so cruelly that streams of blood issued from her eyes and mouth, one of her arms was broken, some of her teeth knocked out, her head bruised in a most dreadful manner, one of her eyes forced from the socket; and he otherwise so ill treated her that the language of decency cannot describe it.

Some persons, hearing the cries of the unhappy creature, repaired to the spot, took Price into custody, and lodged him in the watch-house; then conveyed the woman to a house, where a surgeon and nurse were sent for to attend her. Being unable to speak, she answered the nurse's questions by signs, and in that manner described what had happened to her. She died, after having languished four days.

The prisoner, on his trial, denied being guilty of the fact; and said that, as he was crossing Moorfields, he found something lying in his way; that he kicked at it, but discovered that it was a woman: he lifted her up, but she could not stand on her legs; and he said that he was taken into custody while he was thus employed. This defence, however, could not be credited, from what some former evidences had sworn; and the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty.

After sentence of death was passed on him, he abandoned himself to the drinking of spirituous liquors to such a degree as rendered him totally incapable of all the exercises of devotion. He obstinately denied the fact till the day of his execution, when he confessed that he had been guilty of it; but said that the crime was perpetrated when he was in a state of intoxication. He was executed in Bunhill-fields, on the 31st of May, 1718, and, in his last moments, begged the prayers of the multitude, and hoped they would take warning by his untimely end. He was afterwards hung in chains near Holloway.

One would imagine that the dreadful scenes of calamity to which this man had been witness, if they had not taught him humanity, would at least have given him wisdom enough

not to have perpetrated a crime that must necessarily bring him to a similarly fatal end to what he had so often seen of others: but perhaps his profession tended rather to harden his mind than otherwise.

The murder of which Price was guilty appears to have been one of the most barbarous and unprovoked we ever remember to have read of: and his pretence that he was drunk when he perpetrated it was no sort of excuse, since drunkenness itself is a crime, and one which frequently leads to the commission of others.

The lesson to be learnt from the fate of this man is to moderate our passions of every kind, and to live by the rules of temperance and sobriety. We are told, from the best authority, that 'hands that shed innocent blood are an abomination to the Lord.'

LIEUTENANT EDWARD BIRD,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF SAMUEL LOXTON.

Mr. Bird was born at Windsor, in Berkshire, and descended of respectable parents, who, having first sent him to Westminster School, then removed him to Eton College. When he had finished his studies, he was sent to make the tour of France and Italy, and, on his return to England, was honoured with the commission of a lieutenant in a regiment of horse.

Before he had been long in the army, he began to associate with abandoned company of both sexes, which finally led to the commission of the crime which cost him his life.

On the 10th of January, 1719, he was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Samuel Loxton. It appeared on his trial that he had taken a woman of the town to a

house of ill fame in Silver Street, where Loxton was a waiter. Early in the morning he ordered a bath to be got ready; * but Loxton, being busy, sent another waiter, at whom Bird, in a fit of passion, made several passes with his sword, which he avoided by holding the door in his hand; but the prisoner ran after him, threw him down stairs, and broke some of his ribs. On this the master and mistress of the house, and Loxton, went into the room, and attempted to appease him; but Bird, enraged that the bath had not been prepared the moment he ordered it, seized his sword, which lay by the bed-side, and, stabbing Loxton, he fell backwards, and died immediately; on which the offender was taken into

* In those days this description of house, was generally provided with hot baths; a necessary step after such debauches, and hence called *Bagnios*. In modern times *unlowness* of this nature takes its due course.

custody, and committed to Newgate. His case stood for trial in October, but, pleading that he was not ready with his defence, it was put off till December, and then again to January, on his physician making affidavit that he was too ill to be removed from his chamber.

Being convicted on the clearest evidence, he received sentence of death; but, great interest being made in his behalf, he was reprieved, and it was thought he would have been pardoned, on condition of transportation, but for the intervention of the following circumstance:

The friends of Loxton, hearing that a reprieve was granted, advised his widow to lodge an appeal at the bar of the Court of King's Bench; and she went thither with some friends, to give security for that purpose: but the relations of Bird, hearing what was intended, were ready in Court, with witnesses, to depose that this was the second wife of Loxton, his first being still living. This being the fact, the Court refused to admit the appeal, as the second could not be a lawful wife.

This affair occasioned so much clamour, that Bird was ordered for execution on Monday, the 23d of February; on the night preceding which he took a dose of poison; but that not operating as he had expected, he stabbed himself in several places. Yet, however, he lived till the morning, when he was taken to Tyburn in a mourning-coach, attended by his mother and the Ordinary of Newgate.

As he had paid little attention to the instructions of the Ordinary while under confinement, so he seemed equally indifferent to his advice in the last moments of his life. Being indulged to stay an hour in the coach with his mother, he was

put into the cart, where he asked for a glass of wine; but, being told it could not be had, he begged a pinch of snuff, which he took with apparent unconcern, wishing health to those who stood near him. He then rehearsed the apostles' creed, and, being tied up, was launched into eternity, on the 23d of February, 1719, in the 27th year of his age.

He declined making any speech, but delivered the following paper to his friends the day before his execution:

'It will be expected that I should say something, at this time, as to the fact I am going to suffer for.

'I do not pretend to say I did not kill the deceased, but humbly conceive that both the laws of God and man will justify self-defence; which I call God to witness, into whose arms of mercy I am now going to throw myself, was my case.

'Unhappy is that gentleman who falls into such hands; for there was not one evidence for the king that was not manifestly perjured, as I have faithfully set forth in my printed case, with all the justice a person expecting nothing less than death was capable of. And it is also as evident that the proper evidences on my side were never called. I wish I could persuade myself that mismanagement did not proceed from the infidelity of my attorney, employed in my trial; for it appears but too evident that he never made one regular step towards my interest; and I wish I could aver that he did not arm my enemies against me.

'After all this, his majesty, in his great wisdom, thought fit to grant me a reprieve, and ordered me for transportation; but the restless malice of my enemies would not fix here.

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'The pretended widow of the deceased lodges an appeal against me. How she had a right so to do I leave those gentlemen learned in the law to determine: yet this, with her fallacious petition, found entrance to the royal fountain, and turned that former stream of mercy from me; causing his majesty to recede from his first degree of mercy, and order my execution; under which sentence I still, with all humility, submit.

'Another reflection, I am credibly informed, is cast upon me, in order to make my load the greater; which is, that I was frequently visited, during my confinement, and even since my conviction, by lewd and infamous women. I cannot say that I have not been visited by divers women, but do not know them to be such: some of them were relations, and other persons who had business with me relating to my unhappy circumstances. What will not malice invent?

'There is one thing more which I omitted in my printed case, relating to my adversary's evidence; deposing that the deceased Loxton fell without the door: which, I declare solemnly, is utterly false; for what was done was in the room; I was not off from my bed when the accident happened; and, when he dropped, he fell backwards upon the bed.

'I might take notice of many more false aspersions, but will omit them; having, I thank my God, forgiven them all.

'In the next place, it will be expected that I say something of my religion.

'I declare that I die a Protestant, and of the communion of the Church of England, whose doctrine teaches me to forgive my enemies, *which sincerely I do; humbly beg, at the same time, that all those*

whom, through inadvertency, beat of blood, or any juvenile folly, I have offended, will do the same by me.

'As for the manifold reflections cast upon me since my confinement, the pretended widow's violent prosecution, the farrier's notoriously false affidavit, and all other offences committed against me, I heartily forgive them.

'And, to conclude, I wish all gentlemen would only weigh the fatal cause of my unhappy exit, and avoid all such houses as that the scene of this misfortune was first laid in: let me be an example to them to avoid those rocks I have split upon; that they may, with less difficulty than I have found it, be able to compose their thoughts (which I thank God I have done), through the assistance of his divine Spirit, and sink into a willing resignation to his divine will.

'EDWARD BIRD.'

This unfortunate youth seems to have fallen a sacrifice to the irregularity and violence of his own passions, to the pride of his heart, and his love of lawless pleasure. Hence let the youth who read this be taught to walk in the plain paths of sobriety and discretion, 'neither turning aside to the right hand nor the left.' His taking poison and stabbing himself, to defeat the execution of the law, is a strong proof of that pride of heart we have mentioned. He could be guilty of a crime deserving the utmost ignominy, but dreaded to sustain it. Humility, then, is another doctrine to be learnt from the fate of this man.

The situation of Bird's mother, in her attending him to Tyburn, must have been dreadful beyond all expression! Mr. Bird had been well educated, and ought to have made a different return to the care of his parents. Women in general, however, should consider that it is by a

religious education that the mind of the child is most likely to be guarded from the contamination of vice. The sacred maxim will hold good in most

instances: 'Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart therefrom.'

CATHERINE JONES,

TRIED FOR BIGAMY.

CATHERINE Jones was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 5th of September, 1719, for marrying Constantine Boone, during the life of her former husband, John Rowland.

Proof was made that she was married to Rowland, in the year 1713, at a house in the Mint, Southwark; and that, six years afterwards, while her husband was abroad, she was again married, in the same house, to Constantine Boone; but Rowland, soon returning to England, caused his wife to be indicted for this crime.

The prisoner did not hesitate to acknowledge the double marriage, but insisted that the latter was illegal, as Boone was an hermaphrodite, and had been shown as such at Southwark and Bartholomew fairs, and at other places.

To prove this a person swore that he knew Boone when a child, that his (or her) mother dressed it

in girls' apparel, and caused it to be instructed in needle-work, till it had attained the age of twelve years, when it *turned man, and went to sea.*

These last words were those of the deposition; and the fact was confirmed by Boone, who appeared in Court, acknowledged being an hermaphrodite, and having been publicly shown in that character.

Other witnesses deposed that the female sex prevailed over that of the male in the party in question; on which the jury acquitted the prisoner.

It is impossible to describe how much this affair was the subject of the public conversation at, and long after, the time that it happened: and it would be idle to make any serious remarks on it. We can only express our astonishment that an hermaphrodite should think of such a glaring absurdity as the taking a wife!

JOHN MATTHEWS,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

JOHN Matthews was the son of a printer in Aldersgate Street, to whom he was apprenticed; but, his father dying, he continued to serve with his mother. Having made connexions with some persons of Jacobitical principles, he printed some papers against the government, for which he was once taken into custody; but, the evidence being incomplete, he was dismissed.

Encouraged by this escape, he was induced to print a pamphlet, entitled 'Ex Ore tuo te Judico: Vox Populi vox Dei.*' For this offence he was brought to his trial on the 30th of October, 1719, when it appeared that he had composed the pages of the pamphlet in question, but locked them up, lest they should be found, and made use of to his prejudice.

* That is, 'Out of thy own mouth will I judge thee:—' the voice of the people is the voice of God.'

An elder brother of Matthews, apprehending that the youth might endanger himself by his propensity to the printing such pamphlets, directed a journeyman, named Lawrence Vezey, to lock up the door of the printing-office every night, and bring him the key: but Vezey, like a villain as he was, first suffered the young fellow to print the supposed treasonable matter, and then gave evidence against him.

A general warrant being granted by the secretary of state, for the search of Mrs. Matthews's house, the messengers of government found a number of the supposed libel in a room which the prisoner acknowledged to belong to him; on which he was carried before the secretary of state, who committed him to Newgate, on his refusing to give up the author.

When Matthews was arraigned at the bar, Vezey swore that the prisoner brought the form, containing part of the book, to the press, and bid him pull a proof of it, which he did; and that the prisoner afterwards came down to him, and said that the pages had been transposed, but he had now put them right; and he then pulled him another proof: he said that then the prisoner desired this evidence to come early in the morning to work off the sheets, saying that he himself would take care of the paper, and that every thing should be ready.

Accordingly Vezey went early next morning, intending to call up William Harper, the apprentice; but the prisoner came to the door, let him in, and called Harper, who assisted Vezey in working off the sheets, Matthews standing by, and taking them from the press, for the greater expedition: and, when the work was done, the prisoner paid

Vezey for his trouble. This evidence was likewise confirmed by Harper, as far as he was concerned in the transaction, and he added that he saw the prisoner composing the matter* from the manuscript copy.

The counsel for the crown exerted their utmost abilities to aggravate the crime of the prisoner, and, the king's messengers swearing to as much as they knew of the affair, Matthews was found guilty, and sentence of death was passed on him.

After condemnation he was attended by the Reverend Mr. Skerrett, who also accompanied him to the place of execution. His whole behaviour after sentence was such as might be expected from one who had too much sense to expect favour from the people then in power; for it was not customary with the ministers of George the First to extend mercy to persons convicted of treasonable offences: but perhaps their seeming want of humanity will appear the more excusable if we reflect on the fatal consequences that might have ensued from the rebellion in 1715.

But nothing can excuse the method they took to obtain evidence in this case. It is but of late years that the issuing of general warrants has been legally condemned; and Englishmen are not a little obliged to the man who procured the condemnation of those warrants. Happily, we can now sit quietly, and write our sentiments in our own houses, without being liable to have our papers seized by the arbitrary mandates of a secretary of state. While we recollect that we are obliged for this favour in a great degree to the perseverance of Mr. Wilkes, we should not forget that the judicial determination of

* *Composing the matter* is a term with printers, which signifies picking up the letters using them in proper order for their being worked off by the printing-press.

Lord Camden perfected the plan so happily begun, and so steadily pursued.

The above-mentioned John Matthews was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1719, before he had completed the 19th year of his age; and was pitied by every one who had not lost the common feelings of humanity.

From the fate of Matthews young gentlemen in the same line of business should be taught to be cautious how they engage in the printing of political pamphlets; for though, to the credit of the good sense and humanity of the present age, there is now much less danger than there formerly was, yet recent experience has taught us that great trouble and

expense may ensue, where all risk of life is out of the question.

We should all pray that we may live to see the time when the liberty of the press will be established in its fullest extent, and when no villain will dare to be guilty of an atrocious action, lest some honest man should reproach him with it in public. By this, however, we do not mean to encourage the *licentiousness* of the press—detested be the heart that should dictate, and the hand that should write, a line to destroy domestic happiness, or corrode the mind of one worthy individual: but the public villain should be ever held up as the object of public scorn and censure!

BARBARA SPENCER,

STRANGLED, AND THEN BURN'T, FOR COINING.

This woman being the first sufferer for coining which we find among the criminal records of the last century, we shall give a few general comments on the crime itself, and the law provided for punishing the offence, previous to entering upon her particular case.

The mischief arising from the counterfeiting the current coin of the realm reaches to every door. A poor man, cheated by a single base shilling, frequently sustains a loss greater than an extensive forgery to the wealthy merchant.

Coining, or uttering base money, is high treason in the second degree. To rob all the people is to be a traitor to the state. But it is asked whether a merchant who imports ingots of gold from America, and privately converts them into good money, be guilty of high treason, and merits death which is the punishment annexed to this crime in almost all countries? Nevertheless, he has robbed nobody; on the contrary, he

has done service to the state by increasing the currency. But he had defrauded the king of the small profit upon the coin. He hath indeed coined good money, but he hath led others into the temptation of coining bad. Yet death is a severe punishment. A lawyer was of opinion that such a criminal should be condemned, as an useful hand, to work in the royal mint, with irons to his legs.

The extensive circulation of counterfeit money was too obvious not to have attracted the notice of all ranks. It had become an enormous evil in the melancholy catalogue of crimes which the laws of the country were called upon to assist the police in suppressing. Its extent almost exceeded credibility; and the dexterity and ingenuity of those counterfeiters had (after considerable practice) enabled them to finish the different kinds of base money in so masterly a manner, that it had become extremely difficult for a common observer to distinguish their

spurious manufacture from the genuine silver of the Mint.

It is well known that at one time, in London, regular markets, in various public and private houses, were held by the principal dealers; where hawkers, pedlars, fraudulent horse-dealers, unlicensed lottery-office keepers, gamblers at fairs, itinerant Jews, Irish labourers, servants of toll-gatherers, and hackney-coach owners, fraudulent publicans, market-women, rabbit-sellers, fish-cryers, barrow-women, and many who could not be suspected, were regularly supplied with counterfeit money, with the advantage of nearly 100*l.* per cent in their favour; and thus it happened that, through those various channels, the country became deluged with immense quantities of base money. This nefarious system, however, has very materially decreased of late years.

It is impossible to reflect on the necessity to which all persons are thus reduced of receiving, and again uttering, false and counterfeit money, without lamenting the extent of the evil.

To permit, therefore, the existence of an adulterated and base coinage, without using every exertion to detect and suppress it, is, in fact, to tolerate general fraud and deception: it must, at the same time, be observed, that the evil, great as it now is, was considerably greater before the issue of the new silver coinage in 1817, there having been at that time scarcely a shilling or a sixpence in circulation which was not worn so plain as to retain no appearance of ever having issued from the Mint.

As a proof of the activity of coiners, counterfeits of the new shillings and sixpences which were first issued to the public on the 3d of February, 1817, were in circulation at the same time; and, within

two or three months afterwards, a man was apprehended at Birmingham, and committed to Warwick gaol, on a charge of coining and uttering; and another was taken into custody, on his way from Birmingham to London, with 1068 counterfeit sixpences, also of the new coinage. It was understood that ten or twelve persons were waiting his arrival at a public house in London, to purchase small quantities of counterfeit money of him.

The mischief has not been confined to the counterfeiting the coin of the realm. The avarice and ingenuity of man is constantly finding out new sources of fraud; inasmuch that, in London, and in Birmingham and its neighbourhood, Louis d'ors, half Johannas, French half-crowns and shillings, as well as several coins of Flanders and Germany, and dollars of excellent workmanship, in exact imitation of the Spanish dollars issued from the Bank in 1797, have been from time to time counterfeited; apparently without suspicion that, under the act of the 14th Elizabeth, cap. 3, the offenders were guilty of misprision of high treason.

These ingenious miscreants have also extended their iniquitous manufacture to the coins of India; and a coinage of the star pagoda of Arcot was established in London for years by one person. These counterfeits, being made wholly of blanchéd copper, tempered in such a manner as to exhibit, when stamped, the cracks in the edges, which are always to be found on the real pagoda, cost the maker only three halfpence each, after being double gilt. When finished, they were generally sold to Jews, at five shillings a dozen, who disposed of them afterwards at two shillings, three shillings, and even five shillings each; and through

this medium they have been introduced by a variety of channels into India, where they were mixed with the real pagodas of the country, and passed at their full denominated value of eight shillings sterling.

The sequins of Turkey, another gold coin, worth about five or six shillings, have in like manner been counterfeited in London. Thus the national character is wounded, and the disgrace of the British name proclaimed in Asia, and even in the most distant regions of India. Nor can it be sufficiently lamented that persons who consider themselves as ranking in superior stations of life, with some pretensions to honour and integrity, have suffered their avarice so far to get the better of their honesty as to be concerned in this iniquitous traffic.

It was some time since discovered that there were at least one hundred and twenty persons, in the metropolis and in the country, employed principally in coining and selling base money! and this independent of the numerous horde of utterers, who chiefly support themselves by passing it at its full value. It will scarcely be credited that, of criminals of this latter class, who were either detected, prosecuted, or convicted, within seven years, there stood upon the register of the solicitor to the Mint more than six hundred and fifty names! When the reader is informed that two persons can finish from 200*l.* to 300*l.* (nominal value) in base silver in six days, and takes into the calculation the number of known coiners, the aggregate amount in the course of a year will be found to be immense.

On the circulation of Spanish dollars, in 1804, a Jew was apprehended for uttering base ones, and also suspected of being the coiner of them; but, there being no provi-

sion in the act against counterfeiting this coin, though it had been called in before (1797), on that account the offender escaped with impunity.

So dexterous and skilful coiners are, that, by mixing a certain proportion of pure gold with a compound of base metal, they can fabricate gold coin that shall be full weight, and of such perfect workmanship as to elude a discovery except by persons of skill; while the intrinsic value does not much exceed half what they are intended to pass for, and in some instances not even so much as that. Of this coinage considerable quantities of guineas were circulated some years since, bearing the impression of George II.; and another coinage of counterfeit guineas of the year 1793, bearing the impression of George III. was for some years in circulation, finished in a masterly manner, and nearly full weight, although the intrinsic value was not above eight shillings: half-guineas were also in circulation, of the same coinage, and a good imitation of the seven-shilling pieces. But the fabrication of this coin requires a greater degree of skill and ingenuity than generally prevails, and also a larger capital than most coiners are able to command. The guineas and half-guineas, which were counterfeited in a style to elude detection, bore no proportion in point of extent to the coinage of base silver, of which there were five different kinds counterfeited previously to the new coinage, and which we shall proceed to enumerate.

The first of these were denominated flats, from the circumstance of this species of money being cut out of flattened plates, composed of a mixture of silver and blanché copper. The proportion of silver ran from one-fourth to one-third, and in some instances even to one-half: the metals were mixed by a chymi-

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cal preparation, and afterwards rolled, by flatting-mills, into the thickness of shillings, half-crowns, or crowns, according to the desire of the parties who brought the copper and silver, which last was generally stolen plate. It was not known that there were above one or two rolling-mills in London, although there were several in the country, where all the dealers and coiners of this species of base money resorted, for the purpose of having these plates prepared; from which, when finished, blanks, or round pieces, were cut out, of the sizes of the money meant to be counterfeited.

The artisans who stamped or coined these blanks into base money were seldom interested themselves. They generally worked as mechanics for the large dealers, who employed a capital in the trade, and who furnished the plates, and paid about eight per cent. for the coinage, being at the rate of one penny for each shilling, and twopence half-penny for each half-crown.

This operation consisted first in turning the blanks in a lathe; then stamping them, by means of a press, with dies with the exact impression of the coin intended to be imitated: they were afterwards rubbed with sand-paper and cork; then put in aqua-fortis, to bring the silver to the surface; then rubbed with common salt; then with cream of tartar; then warmed in a shovel, or similar machine, before the fire; and, last of all, rubbed with blacking to give them the appearance of having been in circulation.

All these operations were so quickly performed, that two persons (a man and his wife, for instance) could completely finish to the nominal amount of fifty pounds, in shillings and half-crowns, in two days, by which they would earn *each two guineas a day*.

A shilling of this species, which exhibited nearly the appearance of what was usually called a Birmingham shilling, is intrinsically worth from twopence to fourpence; and crowns and half-crowns are in the same proportion. The quantity made of this sort of counterfeit coinage was very considerable: it required less ingenuity than any of the other methods of coining, though at the same time it was the most expensive, and of course the least profitable to the dealer, who for the most part disposed of it to the utterers, vulgarly called *smashers*, at from twenty-eight to forty shillings for a guinea, according to the quality; while those smashers generally managed to utter it again at the full value.

The second species of counterfeit silver money passed among the dealers by the denomination of plated goods, from the circumstance of the shillings and half-crowns being made of copper of a reduced size, and afterwards plated with silver, so extended as to form a rim round the edge. This coin was afterwards stamped with dies, so as to resemble the real coin, and, from the circumstance of the surface being pure silver, was not easily discovered, except by ringing the money on a table; but, as this species of base money required a knowledge of plating, as well as a great deal of ingenuity, it was of course confined to few hands. It was, however, extremely profitable to those who carried it on, as it could generally be uttered, without detection, at its full import value.

The third species of base silver money was called plain goods, and was totally confined to shillings. These were made of copper blanks turned in a lathe, of the exact size of a Birmingham shilling, afterwards silvered over by a particular opera-

tion used in colouring metal buttons: they were then rubbed over with cream of tartar and blacking, after which they were fit for circulation.

These shillings did not cost the makers above one halfpenny each; they were sold very low to the smashers or utterers, who passed them, where they could, at the full nominal value; and when the silver wore off, which was very soon the case, they were sold to the Jews as bad shillings, who generally resold them at a small profit to customers, by whom they were recoloured, and thus soon brought again into circulation. The profit was immense, owing to the trifling value of the materials; but the circulation was never extensive.

The fourth class of counterfeit silver money was known by the name of castings, or cast goods. This species of work required great skill and ingenuity, and was therefore confined to few hands; for none but excellent artists could attempt it with any prospect of great success.

The process was to melt blanché copper, and to cast it in moulds, having the impression, and being the size, of a crown, a half-crown, a shilling, or a sixpence, as the case might be: after being removed from the moulds, the money thus formed was cleaned off, and afterwards neatly silvered over by an operation similar to that which takes place in the manufacture of buttons.

The counterfeit money made in imitation of shillings by this process was generally cast so as to have a crooked appearance; and the deception was so admirable, that, although intrinsically not worth one halfpenny, by exhibiting the appearance of a thick crooked shilling, they entered into circulation without suspicion, and were seldom refused while the surface exhibited no part

of the copper; and even after this the itinerant Jews purchased them at threepence each, though six times their intrinsic value, well knowing that they could be again recoloured at the expense of half a farthing, so as to pass without difficulty for their nominal value of twelvecence.

In fabricating cast money, the workmen are always more secure than where presses and dies are used; because, upon the least alarm, and before any officer of justice can have admission, the counterfeits are thrown into the crucible, the moulds are destroyed, and nothing is to be found that can convict, or even criminate, the offender: on this account the makers of cast money reigned long, and, were they careful and frugal, they might have become extremely rich; but prudence rarely falls to the lot of men who live by acts of criminality.

The fifth and last species of base coin made in imitation of silver money of the realm was called figs, or fig-things. It was a very inferior sort of counterfeit money, of which composition, however, a great part of the sixpences were made. The proportion of silver was not, generally speaking, of the value of one farthing in half-a-crown; although there were certainly some exceptions, as counterfeit sixpences were circulated, some with a mixture, and some wholly silver; but even these did not yield the maker less than from 50 to 80 per cent.

One of the principal coiners of stamped money, who many years since left off business, and made some important discoveries, acknowledged to the author that he had coined to the extent of two hundred thousand pounds sterling in counterfeit half-crowns, and other base silver money, in a period of seven years. This is the less surprising, as two persons can stamp

and finish to the amount of from 200*l.* to 300*l.* a week.

Of the copper money made in imitation of the current coin of the realm there were many different sorts sold at various prices, according to the size and weight; but in general they may be divided into two kinds, namely, the stamped and the plain halfpence, of both which kinds immense quantities were made in London, and also in Birmingham, Wedgbury, Bilston, Wolverhampton, &c.

The plain halfpence were generally made at Birmingham, and, from their thickness, afforded a wonderful deception. They were sold, however, by the coiners, to the large dealers, at about a farthing each, or one hundred per cent. profit in the tale or aggregate number. These dealers were not the utterers, but sold them again by retail in pieces, or five-shilling papers, at the rate of from twenty-eight shillings to thirty-one shillings for a guinea, not only to the smashers, but also to little tradespeople.

Farthings were also made in considerable quantities, chiefly in London, but so very thin that the profit upon this species of coinage was much greater than on the halfpence, though not, as formerly, made of base metal. The copper of which they were made was generally pure, the advantage lying in the weight alone, where the coiners, sellers, and utterers, did not obtain less than two hundred per cent. A well-known coiner has been said to finish from sixty to eighty pounds sterling a week. Of halfpence, two or three persons could stamp and finish to the nominal amount of at least two hundred pounds in six days.

When it is considered that there were seldom less than between forty and fifty coinages or private mints, almost constantly employed in London, and in different country towns,

in stamping and fabricating base silver and copper money, the evil may justly be said to have arrived at an enormous height. It is, indeed, true, that these people were a good deal interrupted and embarrassed by detections and convictions; but the laws were so inapplicable to the tricks and devices they resorted to, that these convictions were only a drop in the bucket; while such encouragements were held out, the execution of one rogue only made room for another to take up his customers; and, indeed, the offence of selling being only a misdemeanour, it was no unusual thing for the wife and family of a culprit, or convicted seller of base money, to carry on the business, and to support him luxuriously in Newgate, until the expiration of the year and day's imprisonment, the punishment generally inflicted for this species of offence.

It has not been an unusual thing for several of these dealers to hold a kind of market, every morning, where from forty to fifty of the German Jew boys were regularly supplied with counterfeit halfpence, which they disposed of in the course of the day, in different streets and lanes of the metropolis, for bad shillings, at about threepence each, care being taken that the person crying bad shillings should have a companion near him to carry the halfpence, and take charge of the purchased shillings, so as to elude the detection of the officers of the police, in the event of being searched.

The bad shillings thus purchased were received in payment, by the employers of the boys, for the bad halfpence supplied by them, at the rate of four shillings a dozen; and were generally resold to smashers, at a profit of two shillings a dozen; who speedily recoloured them, and introduced them again into circulation, at their full nominal value.

The boys generally cleared from five to seven shillings a day by this fraudulent business ; which they almost uniformly spent, during the evening, in riot and debauchery ; returning pennyless in the morning to their old trade.

Thus the frauds upon the public multiply beyond all possible conception ; while the tradesman, who, unwarily at least, if not improperly, sells his counterfeit shillings to Jew boys at threepence each, little suspects that it is for the purpose of being returned upon him again at the rate of twopence, or three hundred per cent. profit to the purchasers and utterers.

But these are not the only criminal devices to which the coiners and dealers, as well as the utterers of base money, have had recourse, for answering their iniquitous purposes.

Previous to the act of the 37th Geo. III. cap. 126, counterfeit French crowns, half-crowns, and shillings, of excellent workmanship, were introduced, with a view to elude the punishment of the then deficient laws relative to foreign coin.

Fraudulent die-sinkers are to be found, both in the metropolis and in Birmingham, who are excellent artists, able and willing to copy the exact similitude of any coin from the British guinea to the sequin of Turkey, or to the star pagoda of Arcot. The delinquents have therefore every opportunity and assistance they can wish for ; while their accurate knowledge of the deficiency of the laws (particularly relative to British coin, and where the point of danger lies), joined to the extreme difficulty of detection, operates as a great encouragement to this species of treason, felony, and fraud, and affords the most forcible reason why these pests of society still continue to afflict the honest part of the community.

An opinion prevailed, founded

on information obtained through the medium of the most intelligent of these coiners and dealers, that, of the counterfeit money lately in circulation, not above one-third part was of the species of flats or composition money, which has been mentioned as the most intrinsically valuable of counterfeit silver, and contained from one-fourth to one-third silver ; the remainder being blanchéd copper. The other two-thirds of the counterfeit money being cast or washed, and intrinsically worth little or nothing, the imposition upon the public was obvious. Taking the whole upon an average, the amount of the injury may be fairly calculated at within ten per cent. of a total loss upon the mass of the base silver then in circulation ; which, if a conclusion may be drawn from what passed under the review of any person who had occasion to receive silver in exchange, must considerably exceed one million sterling !

Of the copper coinage, the quantity of counterfeits at one time in circulation might be truly said to equal three-fourth parts of the whole ; and nothing is more certain than that a very great proportion of the actual counterfeits passed as mint halfpence, from their size and appearance, although they yielded the coiners a vast profit.

Since the old coin has been withdrawn from circulation, however, the quantity of base money has been comparatively trifling, although it is still much greater than many persons are aware of.

In the month of May, 1721, Barbara Spencer, Alice Hall, and Elizabeth Bray, were indicted at the Old Bailey, for high treason, in counterfeiting the current coin of the kingdom ; when Hall and Bray were acquitted, as being only agents to the other, and Spencer,

being found guilty, was sentenced to be burnt.*

Barbara Spencer was born in the parish of St. Giles without Cripple-gate, and, when young, proved to be of a violent temper. At length, her mother, finding her quite unmanageable at home, put her apprentice to a mantua-maker, who, having known her from a child, treated her with great kindness.

Barbara had served about two years, when, on a dispute with her mistress, she went home to her mother, with whom she had not long resided before she insisted on having a maid kept, to which the old woman consented. A quarrel soon happening between Barbara and the maid, the mother interposed; on which the daughter left her for a time, but soon returned again.

Not long after this, it happened that some malefactors were to be executed at Tyburn, and Barbara insisted on going to see the execution. This was prudently opposed by her mother, who, struggling to keep her at home, struck her; but the daughter, getting out of the house, went to a female acquaintance, who accompanied her to Tyburn, and thence to a house near St. Giles's Pound, where Barbara made a vow that she would never again return to her mother.

In this fatal resolution she was encouraged by the company present, who persuaded her to believe that she might live in an easy manner, if she would but follow their way of life. To this she readily agreed; and, as they were coiners, they employed her in uttering counterfeit money, for which she was detected, tried, fined, and imprisoned.

* Women convicted of high or petit treason are always thus sentenced; but they are first tied to a stake, and strangled before they are burnt.

† This, as well as the torture to such as would not plead, is now dispensed with. It is surprising that this punishment should so long have disgraced the country. In the case of Catherine Hayes, hereafter given, we shall have occasion to adduce a shocking instance of her having been, from mismanagement, actually burnt alive.

Not taking warning by what had happened, she returned to her old connexions, commenced coiner herself, and was at length apprehended for the crime for which she suffered.

While under sentence of death, she behaved in the most indecent and turbulent manner; nor could she be convinced that she had been guilty of any crime in making a few shillings. She was for some time very impatient under the idea of her approaching dissolution, and was particularly shocked at the thought of being burnt; but, at the place of execution, she seemed willing to exercise herself in devotion, but was much interrupted by the mob throwing stones and dirt at her.

She was strangled and burnt at Tyburn on the 5th of July, 1721.†

The unhappy fate of this woman seems to have been occasioned by the violence of her temper, and a want of duty to her mother. Hence let all young people learn to keep their passions in subjection, and to remember the injunction in the fifth commandment; 'Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee:' for surely no crime is more likely to lead to destruction than that of disobedience to parents. It is the inlet to every other vice, and the source of a thousand calamities.

Let children that would fear the Lord
Hear what their teachers say;
With reverence meet their parents' word,
And with delight obey.

For those who worship God, and give
Their parents honour due,
Here on this earth they long shall live,
And live hereafter too.



Clarke, whilst in the act of embracing a young Woman, cuts her Throat.

MATTHEW CLARKE,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

This offender was the son of poor persons at St. Albans, and brought up as a plough-boy; but, being too idle to follow his business, he sauntered about the country, and committed frequent robberies, spending among women the money he obtained in this illegal manner.

Clarke had art enough to engage the affections of a number of young women, to some of whom he promised marriage; and he seems to have intended to have kept his word with one of them, and went with her to London to tie the nuptial knot; but, going into a goldsmith's shop to buy the ring, he said he had forgot to supply himself with money, but would go into the country and fetch it.

The young woman staid in town while he went to Wilsden Green, with a view to commit a robbery,

that he might replenish his pocket. As it was now the season of hay-making, he met a man, who, wondering that he should be idle, gave him employment. Besides the business of farming, his employer kept a public house, and had a servant maid, whom Clarke had formerly courted.

The villain, leaving his fellow-labourers in the field, went to the house, and, finding only the girl at home, conversed with her some time; but, having determined to rob his employer, he thought he could not do it securely without murdering her; and, while she was gone to draw him some beer, he pulled out his knife for this horrid purpose; and, when she entered the room, he got up to kiss her, thinking to have then perpetrated the deed, but his conscience pre-

vented him : on this he sat down, and talked with her some time longer ; when he got up, and, again kissing her, cut her throat in the same instant.

Hereupon she fell down, and attempted to crawl to the door, while the blood streamed from her throat ; on which the villain cut her neck to the bone, and, robbing the house of a small sum, ran off towards London, under all the agonizing tortures of a wounded conscience.

Tyburn being in his way to town, he was so terrified at the sight of the gallows, that he went back a considerable distance, till, meeting a waggon, he offered his service in driving, thinking that his being in employment might prevent his being suspected in case of a pursuit. But he had not gone far before some persons rode up, and asked him if he had seen a man who might be suspected of a murder. He seemed so terrified by the question that the parties could not help noticing his agitation, and, on a close inspection, they found some congealed blood on his clothes, to account for which he said he had quarrelled and fought with a soldier on the road.

Being taken into custody, he soon acknowledged his crime, and,

being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to Newgate ; and, when brought to trial, he pleaded guilty : in consequence of which he was executed at Tyburn on the 28th of July, 1721, and then hung in chains near the spot where he committed the murder.

There is something dreadfully enormous in the crime for which this man suffered. When under sentence of death he was one of the most miserable wretches that ever endured a situation so calamitous. Nor is this to be wondered at ; for the murder he committed was one of the most unprovoked imaginable. It is probable, from the affection the poor girl had for him, that she would have lent him a greater sum than he obtained by cutting her throat.

His terrors at the sight of the gallows should teach those who are prompted to iniquity to avoid all crimes that may lead to a fatal end. The wicked can never be happy ; and it is only by a life of integrity, virtue, and piety, that we can hope for the blessing of God, the applause of a good conscience, and ' that peace of mind which passeth all understanding.'

THOMAS BUTLER,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

IDLENESS, the step-mother of dissipation, hath driven many, gentlemen by education, to commit depredations on the public. This observation is fully verified in the life of Mr. Butler. He was a native of Ireland, his father being an officer in the army of King James II. ; but King William having defeated that prince at the battle of the Boyne, young Butler and his father went with James to France ; but, when the rebellion broke out

in Scotland, the young gentleman was employed as a spy in the family of the Duke of Ormond, for which he was allowed 20*l.* a year ; but he hereby lost the favour of his friends and relations, who espoused a different interest. From Paris he went to Holland, where he soon spent most of the money in his possession, and then embarked for England.

On his arrival in this country, being idle and extravagant, he com

menced highwayman, and went out frequently in company with a man whom he called Jack, and who occasionally acted as his servant; and they jointly committed a great number of robberies near London, particularly in Kent and Essex.

When they were in London, and sometimes in a country town, they had the genteelst lodging, and then Jack wore a livery, while the squire was dressed in a most elegant manner, and had all the appearance of a man of fortune.

By this style of living they continued their depredations on the highway for many years; but Butler, being at length apprehended, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, in January, 1720, when he was indicted for robbing Sir Justinian Isham and another gentleman on the highway of a gold watch, a silk night-gown, six Holland shirts, and other valuable articles, and was convicted on the clearest evidence.

The circumstance that led to his detection was, that offering some of the effects for sale to a jeweller, he refused to purchase them unless he knew Butler's place of residence, which the latter readily told him; and, when his lodgings were searched, Sir Justinian's gown was found, and was produced in court. Butler's companion, or servant, was in Ireland at the time of his detection, by which he escaped the fate he deserved.

While Mr. Butler lay under sentence of death, he behaved in a very penitent manner. Being a Roman Catholic, he received the sacrament from a priest of his own persuasion. It had been reported that he had eight wives; but this he solemnly denied, declaring that he was legally married to only one woman.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of February, 1720, at the age of forty-two years.

There are few highwaymen who have lived in such a style of elegance as Butler; and by this mode of proceeding he eluded justice for a considerable time, as he used to dress in black velvet, laced ruffles, and all the other apparatus of a gentleman. Yet justice at last found him out, and detected him while in the full career of his wickedness.

Hence let those who are tempted to the commission of acts of illegality learn that the steps of justice, though they may be slow, are sure; that it is almost impossible for guilt to escape detection; and that vengeance is the more terrible the longer it is dreaded, and the longer it is delayed.

Amidst all those gaieties of life that may be procured by fraudulent means, the heart must be perpetually corroded by grief, and agitated by fear. The life of honesty is the only life of peace or safety. Let us never forget to 'Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.'

WILLIAM SPIGGOT AND THOMAS PHILLIPS,

RANGED FOR ROBBING ON THE HIGHWAY.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of January, 1720, William Spiggot and Thomas Phillips were indicted for committing several robberies on the highway; but they refused to plead unless the effects taken from them

when they were apprehended were returned: but, this being directly contrary to an act of the 4th and 5th year of king William and queen Mary, entitled 'An Act for encouraging the Apprehending of Highwaymen,' the Court informed

them that their demand could not be complied with.

Still, however, they refused to plead, and no arguments could convince them of the absurdity of such an obstinate procedure; on which the Court ordered that the judgment ordained by law in such cases should be read, which is to the following purpose:

'That the prisoner shall be sent to the prison from whence he came, and put into a mean room, stopped from the light, and shall there be laid on the bare ground, without any litter, straw, or other covering, and without any garment about him, except something to hide his privy members. He shall lie upon his back, his head shall be covered, and his feet shall be bare. One of his arms shall be drawn with a cord to one side of the room, and the other arm to the other side; and his legs shall be served in the like manner. Then there shall be laid upon his body as much iron or stone as he can bear, and more. And the first day after he shall have three morsels of barley bread, without any drink; and the second day he shall be allowed to drink as much as he can, at three times, of the water that is next the prison-door, except running water, without any bread; and this shall be his diet till he dies: and he against whom this judgment shall be given forfeits his goods to the king.'*

The reading of this sentence producing no effect, they were ordered back to Newgate, there to be pressed to death: but, when they came into the press-room, Phillips begged to be taken back to plead; a favour that was granted, though it might have been denied to him: but Spiggot was put under the press,

where he continued half an hour, with three hundred and fifty pounds' weight on his body; but, on the addition of fifty pounds more, he likewise begged to plead.

In consequence hereof they were brought back and again indicted, when, the evidence being clear and positive against them, they were convicted, and received sentence of death; in consequence of which they were executed at Tyburn on the 8th of February, 1720.

William Spiggot, who was about twenty-seven years of age when he suffered, was a native of Hereford, but, coming to London, he apprenticed himself to a cabinet-maker. He was a married man, and had three children living at the time of his fatal exit. He and Phillips were hanged for robbing Charles Sybbald on Finchley Common, and were convicted principally on the evidence of Joseph Lindsey, a clergyman of abandoned character, who had been of their party. One Burroughs, a lunatic, who had escaped from Bedlam, was likewise concerned with them, but afterwards publicly spoke of the affair, which occasioned their being taken into custody; and, when it was known that Burroughs was disordered in his mind, he was sent back to Bedlam.

Thomas Phillips, aged thirty-three years, was a native of Bristol, totally uneducated, and, being sent to sea when very young, he served under Lord Torrington, when he attacked and took the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, near the harbour of Cadiz.

Phillips, returning to England, became acquainted with Spiggot and Lindsey, in company with whom he committed a great number of rob-

* By an act passed in 1774 it is determined that persons refusing to plead shall be *deemed guilty*, as if convicted by a jury; an alteration that does honour to modern times.

beries on the highway. Phillips once boasted that he and Spiggot robbed above a hundred passengers one night, whom they obliged to come out of different waggons, and, having bound them, placed them by each other on the side of the road; but this story is too absurd to be believed.

While under sentence of death Phillips behaved in the most hardened and abandoned manner; he paid no regard to any thing that the minister said to him, and swore or sung songs while the other prisoners were engaged in acts of devotion; and, towards the close of his life, when his companions became more serious, he grew still more wicked; and yet, when at the place of execution he said 'he did not fear to die, for he was in no doubt of going to Heaven.'

The lesson of instruction to be drawn from the fate of these malefactors will be comprised in a few words. As the law now stands, no other criminal can ever undergo the punishment that Spiggot sustained; and we hope no other will ever behave in so hardened a manner as Phillips did. It is horrid to think of a man's jesting of sacred matters at any time; but particularly so when he knows himself to be on the verge of eternity. The character of Lindsey ought to be held in universal contempt. The clergyman who could desert the duties of his sacred function to join with highwaymen, and then become an evidence to convict them, must be an object of detestation to every honest man!

JOHN MEFF,

EXECUTED FOR RETURNING FROM TRANSPORTATION.

This offender had been taken into custody for committing a robbery near London; but, as it happened at a time within the limits of an Act of Grace passed in the reign of King George the First, it was not thought necessary to indict him, and he would have been discharged without further ceremony; but it appeared that he had been transported for another crime, and returned before the expiration of his time: wherefore he was indicted for this offence, on an act then lately made, 'For the effectual Transportation of Felons;' and, his person being identified, he was found guilty, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of September, 1721.

The following is an account which he wrote between his condemnation and the day of his execution:

'I was born in London of French parents, who fled hither for protection when the French Protestants were driven out of France by Louis XIV.

'I was put apprentice to a weaver: my father, having continued about twelve years in England, went with the rest of his family to Holland. I served my time faithfully, and with the approbation of my master. Soon after I came to work for myself I married; but my business not being sufficient to maintain myself, my wife, and children, I was willing to try what I could at thieving.

'I followed this practice till I was apprehended, tried, and condemned, for housebreaking; but, as I was going to the place of execution, the hangman was arrested, and I was brought back to Newgate. It was thought this was my contrivance, to put a stop to public justice; but I was so far from being any ways concerned in it, that I knew nothing of it till it was done. This might have been a happy turn for me, if I had made a right use of it: for my sentence of death was changed for that of transportation. And indeed I took up

a solemn resolution to lead an honest and regular course of life, and to resist all the persuasions of my comrades to the contrary. But this resolution continued but a short time after the fear of death vanished.

'I believe, however, that if I had been safe landed in America, my ruin might have been prevented: but the ship which carried me and the other convicts was taken by the pirates. They would have persuaded me and some others to sign a paper, in order to become pirates; but we refusing, they put me and eight more ashore on a desert uninhabited island, where we must have perished with hunger, if by good fortune an Indian canoe had not arrived there. We waited till the Indians were gone up the island, and then, getting into the vessel, we sailed from one small island to another, till we reached the coast of America.

'Not choosing to settle in any of the plantations there, but preferring the life of a sailor, I shipped myself on board a vessel that carried merchandise from Virginia and South Carolina to Barbadoes, Jamaica, and other of his majesty's islands. And thus I lived a considerable time; but at last, being over-desirous to see how my wife and children fared in England, I was resolved to return at all adventures.

'Upon my arrival here, I quickly fell into my former wicked practices, and it was not long before I was committed to Newgate on suspicion of robbing a person near London; but, by the assistance of a certain bricklayer, I broke out of prison and went to Hatfield, where I lay concealed for some time; but was at last discovered, and taken again by the same brick-

who had procured my escape. evil genius attended me. I

was certainly infatuated, or I had never continued in a place where I was so likely to be discovered.

'My father is now a gardener at Amsterdam. 'Tis an addition to my misfortune that I cannot see him and my mother before I die; but, I hope, when he hears of my unhappy end, he will keep my children by my first wife from starving. My present wife is able, by her industry, to bring up her own offspring; for she has been an honest careful woman, during the nine months I have been married to her, and has often pressed me to go over to Ireland, and lead a regular and sober life. It had been well for me if I had taken her advice.

'I have had enough of this restless and tumultuous world, and hope I am now going to a better. I am very easy and resigned to the will of Providence, not doubting but I have made my peace with Heaven. I thank God that I have not been molested by my fellow-prisoners with the least cursing or swearing in the condemned hole; but have had an opportunity of employing every moment of my time in preparing for a future state.'

The case of this malefactor is very extraordinary, and perhaps may never be equalled by that of any other. The narrow escape he had experienced from the gallows ought to have taught him more wisdom than to have returned from transportation before the expiration of his time; but one would think there is a fatality attending the conduct of some men, who seem resolutely bent on their own destruction.

One truth, however, is certain. It is easy, by a steady adherence to the rules of virtue, to shun that ignominious fate which is the consequence of a breach of the laws of God and our country.

ARTHUR GRAY,

CONVICTED OF BURGLARY.

IN December, 1721, the prisoner was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of George Baillie, Esq. in the parish of St. James, Westminster, with intent to ravish Grizel, the wife of Alexander Murray.

Mrs. Murray was the sister of Mrs. Baillie, and lived in the house of her brother-in-law, in the absence of her husband, who was a military officer.

It was sworn on the trial that, about four in the morning of the 14th of October, the prisoner entered Mrs. Murray's room, with a drawn sword in one hand and a pistol in the other, and threatened to kill her if she made any noise; that she asked him the meaning of such a procedure, to which he replied, 'Madam, I mean to ravish you, for I have entertained a violent passion for you a long time; but, as there is so great a difference between your fortune and mine, I despair of enjoying my wishes by any means but force.'

On this the lady remonstrated with him; but, persisting in his intention, he laid the sword on the bolster, and attempted to pull off the bed-clothes; but Mrs. Murray pushed him against the wall, wrenched the pistol out of his hand, and rang the bell; on which the prisoner quitted the room; but she followed him to the door, and called out murder, by which the family were alarmed.

The servants now ran to the assistance of the lady, but Gray had got to his own room, and thrown himself on the bed with his clothes on; and, having been out in company the preceding evening, it does

not appear that he was undressed during the night.

Being apprehended, and taken before a magistrate, he confessed that he entered the room with an intent to ravish the lady; but this he afterwards steadily denied; and various were the opinions of the public respecting his guilt or innocence.

The prisoner, in his defence, said that, thinking he heard a noise in Mrs. Murray's room, he went down stairs and fetched a sword and pistol; and, as the door stood partly open, he went in, and, laying down his arms to look behind the bed, Mrs. Murray rang the bell, and alarmed the family.

The jury, having considered the evidence, brought him in guilty, and he received sentence of death; but, Mrs. Murray's relations interceding in his behalf, he was afterwards pardoned on condition of transportation.

This affair made a great noise at the time it happened, and many persons did not scruple to insinuate that Gray had been admitted to favours which might warrant his entering the lady's chamber at any hour.

The single reflection arising from this story is, that illicit pleasure leads to disgrace: there is no doubt but there was some foundation for this prosecution. If Gray had been previously too intimate with the lady, she was punished by the exposure of a public trial; if otherwise, he was punished for the attempt, in the ignominy of a public conviction. Hence let it be learnt that chastity is a virtue which cannot be prized at too high a rate.

NATHANIEL HAWES,

TORTURED, AND AFTERWARDS EXECUTED, FOR ROBBERY.

AT the time of the sufferings of this man, in the year 1721, such prisoners as contumaciously refused to plead to their indictments underwent torture until they complied with the law as it then regarded their case. This punishment is, however, no longer deemed compatible with freedom; and it was therefore abrogated in the year 1772. Yet, as the inhuman practice still prevails in some of the English settlements abroad, and as many nations continue to torture criminals, we shall, previous to entering upon the case of Hawes, offer some observations thereon.

In order to extort confession, torture is not peculiar to Roman Catholic countries, but is even a custom in China. The instrument of barbarity called the rack is composed of a thick strong plank, having a contrivance at one end to secure the hands, and at the other a sort of double wooden vice. The vice is formed of three stout uprights, two of which are moveable, but steadied by a block that is fastened on each side. The ankles of the culprit being placed in the machine, a cord is passed round the uprights, and held fast by two men. The chief tormentor then gradually introduces a wedge into the intervals, alternately changing sides. The method of forcing an expansion at the upper part causes the lower ends to draw towards the central upright, which is fixed unto the plank, and thereby compresses the ankles of the wretched sufferer; who, provided he be fortified by innocence or resolution, endures the advances of the wedge, until his bones are reduced to a jelly.

Stedman, in his account of Surinam, relates the following horrid scene, to which he was an eye-witness:

'There was a negro whose name was Neptune, no slave, but his own master, and a carpenter by trade: he was young and handsome, but, having killed the overseer of the estate of Altona, in the Para Creek, in consequence of some dispute, he justly forfeited his life. The particulars, however, are worth relating:

'This man having stolen a sheep to entertain a favorite young woman, the overseer, who burned with jealousy, had determined to see him hanged; to prevent which, the negro shot him dead among the sugar-canes. For these offences, of course, he was sentenced to be broken alive upon the rack, without the benefit of the *coup de grace*, or mercy-stroke. Informed of the dreadful sentence, he composedly laid himself down upon his back on a strong cross, on which, with his arms and legs extended, he was fastened by ropes. The executioner, also a black man, having now with a hatchet chopped off his left hand, next took up a heavy iron bar, with which, by repeated blows, he broke his bones to shivers, till the marrow, blood, and splinters, flew about the field; but the prisoner never uttered a groan nor a sigh! The ropes being next unlashed, I imagined him dead, and felt happy; till the magistrates stirring to depart, he writhed himself from the cross, when he fell on the grass, and damned them all as a set of barbarous rascals. At the same time, removing his right hand

by the help of his teeth, he rested his head on part of the timber, and asked the by-standers for a pipe of tobacco, which was infamously answered by kicking and spitting on him, till I, with some American seamen, thought proper to prevent it. He then begged his head might be chopped off; but to no purpose. At last, seeing no end to his misery, he declared, "that though he had deserved death, he had not expected to die so many deaths; however, (said he,) you *Christians* have missed your aim at last, and I now care not were I to remain thus one month longer." After which he sung two extempore songs with a clear voice; the subjects of which were to bid adieu to his living friends, and to acquaint his deceased relations that in a very little time he should be with them, to enjoy their company for ever in a better place. This done, he calmly entered into conversation with some gentlemen concerning his trial, relating every particular with uncommon tranquillity. "But (said he abruptly), by the sun it must be eight o'clock, and by any longer discourse I should be sorry to be the cause of your losing your breakfast." Then, casting his eyes on a Jew, whose name was De Veries, "Apropos, Sir (said he), won't you please to pay me the ten shillings you owe me?" "For what to do?" "To buy meat and drink, to be sure—don't you perceive I'm to be kept alive?" Which speech, on seeing the Jew stare like a fool, this mangled wretch accompanied with a loud and hearty laugh. Next observing the soldier that stood sentinel over him biting occasionally a piece of dry bread, he asked him how it came to pass that he, a *white man*, should have no meat to eat along with it? "Because I am not so rich," answered the soldier.

"Then I will make you a present, Sir (said the negro). First pick my hand that was chopped off, clean to the bones; next begin to devour my body till you are glutted; when you will have both bread and meat, as best becomes you:" which piece of humour was followed by a second laugh. And thus he continued until I left him, which was about three hours after the dreadful execution.

'Wonderful it is, indeed, that human nature should be able to endure so much torture! which assuredly could only be supported by a mixture of rage, contempt, pride, and the glory of braving his tormentors, from whom he was so soon to escape.

'I never recall to my remembrance without the most painful sensation this horrid scene, which must revolt the feelings of all who have one spark of humanity. If the reader, however, should be offended with my dwelling so long on this unpleasant subject, let it be some relief to his reflection to consider this punishment not inflicted as a wanton and unprovoked act of cruelty, but as the extreme severity of the Surinam laws on a desperate wretch, suffering, as an example to others, for complicated crimes; while, at the same time, it cannot but give me, and I hope many others, some consolation to reflect that the above barbarous mode of punishment was hitherto never put in practice in the British colonies. I must now relate an incident which, as it had a momentary effect on my imagination, might have had a lasting one on some who had not investigated the real cause of it, and which it gave me no small satisfaction to discover.

'About three in the afternoon, walking towards the place of execution, with my thoughts full of

the affecting scene, and the image of the sufferer fresh in my mind, the first object I saw was his head, at some distance, placed on a stake, nodding to me backwards and forwards, as if he had been really alive. I instantly stopped short, and, seeing no person in the Savannah, nor a breath of wind sufficient to move a leaf or a feather, I acknowledge that I was rivetted to the ground where I stood, without having the resolution of advancing one step for some time; till, reflecting that I must be weak indeed not to approach this dead skull, and find out the wonderful phenomenon if possible, I boldly walked up, and instantly discovered the natural cause, by the return of a vulture to the gallows, who perched upon it as if he meant to dispute with me this feast of carrion; which bird, having already picked out one of the eyes, had fled at my first approach, and, striking the skull with his talons, as he took his sudden flight, occasioned the motion already described. I shall now only add, that this poor wretch, after living more than six hours, had been knocked on the head by the commiserating sentinel, the marks of whose musket were perfectly visible by a large open fracture in the skull.

The torture of a criminal during the course of his trial is a cruelty consecrated by custom in most nations. It is used with an intent either to make him confess his crime, or explain some contradictions into which he had been led during his examination; or to discover his accomplices; or for some kind of metaphysical and incomprehensible purgation of infamy; or, finally, in order to discover other crimes, of which he is not accused, but of which he may be guilty.

No man can be judged a criminal until he be found guilty; nor can

society take from him the public protection until it have been proved that he has violated the conditions on which it was granted. What right, then, but that of power, can authorize the punishment of a citizen, so long as there remains any doubt of his guilt? This dilemma is frequent. Either he is guilty or not guilty. If guilty, he should only suffer the punishment ordained by the laws, and torture becomes useless, as his confession is unnecessary. If he be not guilty, you torture the innocent; for, in the eye of the law, every man is innocent whose crime has not been proved. Besides, it is confounding all relations to expect that a man should be both the accuser and the accused; and that pain should be the test of truth, as if truth resided in the muscles and fibres of a wretch in torture. By this method the robust will escape and the feeble be condemned. These are the inconveniences of this pretended test of truth, worthy only of a cannibal, and which the Romans, in many respects barbarous, and whose savage virtue has been too much admired, reserved for the slaves alone.

What is the political intention of punishments?—To terrify, and be an example to others. Is this intention answered by thus privately torturing the guilty and the innocent? It is doubtless of importance that no crime should remain unpunished: but it is useless to make a public example of the author of a crime hid in darkness. A crime already committed, and for which there can be no remedy, can only be punished by a political society with an intention that no hopes of impunity should induce others to commit the same. If it be true that the number of those who from fear or virtue respect the laws is greater than of those by whom they are

violated, the risk of torturing an innocent person is greater, as there is a greater probability that, *cæteris paribus*, an individual hath observed than he hath infringed the laws.

There is another ridiculous motive for torture—namely, to purge a man from infamy. Ought such an abuse to be tolerated in the nineteenth century? Can pain, which is a sensation, have any connexion with a moral sentiment, a matter of opinion? Perhaps the rack may be considered as the refiner's furnace.

It is not difficult to trace this senseless law to its origin; for an absurdity adopted by a whole nation must have some affinity with other ideas established and respected by the same nation. This custom seems to be the offspring of religion, by which mankind, in all nations, and in all ages, are so generally influenced. We are taught by our infallible Church that those stains of sin contracted through human frailty, and which have not deserved the eternal anger of the Almighty, are to be purged away in another life by an incomprehensible fire. Now infamy is a stain; and, if the punishments and fire of purgatory can take away all spiritual stains, why should not the pain of torture take away those of a civil nature? I imagine that the confession of a criminal, which in some tribunals is required as being essential to his condemnation, has a similar origin, and has been taken from the mysterious tribunal of penitence, where the confession of sins is a necessary part of the sacrament. Thus have men abused the unerring light of revelation; and, in the times of tractable ignorance, having no other, they naturally had recourse to it on every occasion, making the most remote and absurd applications. Moreover, infamy is

a sentiment regulated neither by the laws nor by reason, but entirely by opinion; but torture renders the victim infamous, and therefore cannot take infamy away.

Another intention of torture is to oblige the supposed criminal to reconcile the contradictions into which he may have fallen during his examinations; as if the dread of punishment, the uncertainty of his fate, the solemnity of the Court, the majesty of the judge, and the ignorance of the accused, were not abundantly sufficient to account for contradictions, which are so common to men even in a state of tranquillity, and which must necessarily be multiplied by the perturbation of the mind of a man entirely engaged in the thoughts of saving himself from imminent danger.

This infamous test of truth is a remaining monument of that ancient and savage legislation in which trials by fire, by boiling water, or the uncertainty of combats, were called *judgments of God*; as if the links of that eternal chain whose beginning is in the breast of the First Cause of all things could ever be disunited by the institutions of men. The only difference between torture and trials by fire and boiling water is, that the event of the first depends on the will of the accused, and of the second on a fact entirely physical and external; but this difference is apparent only, not real. A man on the rack, in the convulsions of torture, has it as little in his power to declare the truth as, in former times, to prevent, without fraud, the effects of fire or boiling water.

Every act of the will is invariably in proportion to the force of the impression on our senses. The impression of pain, then, may increase to such a degree, that, occupying

the mind entirely, it will compel the sufferer to use the shortest method of freeing himself from torment. His answer, therefore, will be an effect as necessary as that of fire or boiling water, and he will accuse himself of crimes of which he is innocent; so that the very means employed to distinguish the innocent from the guilty will most effectually destroy all difference between them.

It would be superfluous to confirm these reflections by examples of innocent persons who, from the agony of torture, have confessed themselves guilty: innumerable instances may be found in all nations and in every age. How amazing that mankind have always neglected to draw the natural conclusion! Lives there a man who, if he has carried his thoughts ever so little beyond the necessities of life, when he reflects on such cruelty, is not tempted to fly from society, and return to his natural state of independence?

The result of torture, then, is a matter of calculation, and depends on the constitution, which differs in every individual, and is in proportion to his strength and sensibility; so that to discover truth by this method is a problem which may be better resolved by a mathematician than a judge, and may be thus stated. The force of the muscles and the sensibility of the nerves of an innocent person being given, it is required to find the degree of pain necessary to make him confess himself guilty of a given crime.

The examination of the accused is intended to find out the truth; but if this be discovered with so much difficulty in the air, gesture, and countenance of a man at ease, how can it appear in a countenance distorted by the convulsions of torture? Every violent action destroys

those small alterations in the features which sometimes disclose the sentiments of the heart.

These truths were known to the Roman legislators, amongst whom slaves only, who were not considered as citizens, were tortured. They are known to the English, a nation in which the progress of science, superiority in commerce, riches, and power, its natural consequences, together with the numerous examples of virtue and courage, leave no doubt of the excellence of its laws. They have been acknowledged in Sweden, where torture has been abolished. They are known to one of the wisest monarchs in Europe, who, having seated philosophy on the throne, by his beneficent legislation has made his subjects free, though dependent on the laws; the only freedom that reasonable men can desire in the present state of things. In short, torture has not been thought necessary in the laws of armies, composed chiefly of the dregs of mankind, where its use should seem most necessary. Strange phenomenon, that a set of men, hardened by slaughter and familiar with blood, should teach humanity to the sons of peace!

A very strange but necessary consequence of the use of torture is, that the case of the innocent is worse than that of the guilty. With regard to the first, either he confesses the crime which he has not committed, and is condemned; or he is acquitted, and has suffered a punishment he did not deserve. On the contrary, the person who is really guilty has the most favorable side of the question; for, if he supports the torture with firmness and resolution, he is acquitted, and has gained, having exchanged a greater punishment for a less.

The law by which torture is authorized says—'Men, be insensible to pain. Nature has indeed given you an irresistible self-love, and an unalienable right of self-preservation; but I create in you a contrary sentiment, an heroic hatred of yourselves. I command you to accuse yourselves, and to declare the truth, amidst the tearing of your flesh and the dislocation of your bones.'

Torture is used to discover whether the criminal be guilty of other crimes besides those of which he is accused, which is equivalent to the following reasoning:—'Thou art guilty of one crime, therefore it is possible that thou mayest have committed a thousand others; but the affair being doubtful, I must try it by my criterion of truth. The laws order thee to be tormented because thou art guilty, because thou mayest be guilty, and because I choose thou shouldst be guilty.'

Torture is used to make the criminal discover his accomplices; but, if it has demonstrated that it is not a proper means of discovering truth, how can it serve to discover the accomplices, which is one of the truths required? Will not the man who accuses himself yet more readily accuse others? Besides, is it just to torment one man for the crime of another? May not the accomplices be found out by the examination of the witnesses, or of the criminal—from the evidence, or from the nature of the crime itself—in short, by all the means that have been used to prove the guilt of the prisoner? The accomplices commonly fly when their comrade is taken.

All mankind, being exposed to the attempts of violence or perfidy, detest the crimes of which they may possibly be the victims; all desire that the principal offender and his accomplices may be punished; never-

theless, there is a natural compassion in the human heart, which makes all men detest the cruelty of torturing the accused, in order to extort confession. The law has not condemned them; and yet, though uncertain of their crime, you inflict a punishment more horrible than that which they are to suffer when their guilt is confirmed. 'Possibly thou mayest be innocent; but I will torture thee that I may be satisfied: not that I intend to make thee any recompense for the thousand deaths which I have made thee suffer, in lieu of that which is preparing for thee.' Who does not shudder at the idea? St. Augustin opposed such cruelty; the Romans tortured their slaves only; and Quintilian, recollecting that they were men, reproved the Romans for such want of humanity.

If there were but one nation in the world which had abolished the use of torture—if in that nation crimes were no more frequent than in others—and if that nation be more enlightened and more flourishing since the abolition—its example surely were sufficient for the rest of the world. England alone might instruct all other nations in this particular, but England is not the only nation. Torture hath been abolished in other countries, and with success: the question, therefore, is decided. Shall not a people who pique themselves on their politeness pride themselves also on their humanity? shall they obstinately persist in their inhumanity, merely because it is an ancient custom? Reserve, at least, such cruelty for the punishment of those hardened wretches who shall have assassinated the father of a family, or the father of his country; but that a young person who commits a fault which leaves no traces behind it should suffer equally with a par-

ricide, is not this an useless piece of barbarity?

Nathaniel Hawes was a native of Norfolk, in which county he was born in the year 1701. His father was a grazier in ample circumstances, but, dying while the son was an infant, a relation in Hertfordshire took care of his education.

At a proper age he was apprenticed to an upholsterer in London; but, becoming connected with people of bad character, and thus acquiring an early habit of vice, he robbed his master when he had served only two years of his time, for which he was tried at the Old Bailey; and, being convicted of stealing to the amount of thirty-nine shillings, was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

This sentence, however, was not carried into execution, owing to the following circumstance:—A man named Phillips had encouraged the unhappy youth in his depredations, by purchasing, at a very low rate, such goods as he stole from his master: but, when Hawes was taken into custody, he gave information of this affair, in consequence of which a search-warrant was procured, and many effects belonging to Hawes's master were found in Phillips's possession.

Hereafter application was made to the king, and a free pardon was granted to Hawes, whereby he was rendered a competent evidence against Phillips, who was tried for receiving stolen goods, and transported for fourteen years.

Hawes, during his confinement in Newgate, had made such connexions as greatly contributed to the contamination of his morals; and, soon after his release, he connected himself with a set of bad fellows who acted under the direction of Jonathan Wild; and, having made a particular acquaintance with

one John James, they joined in the commission of a number of robberies.

After an uncommon share of success for some days, they quarrelled on the division of the booty: in consequence each acted on his own account. Some little time after they had thus separated, Hawes, being apprehensive that James would impeach him, applied to Jonathan Wild, and informed against his old acquaintance, on which James was taken into custody, tried, convicted, and executed.

Notwithstanding this conviction, the Court sentenced Hawes to be imprisoned in the New Prison; and that gaol was preferred to Newgate, because the prisoners in the latter threatened to murder Hawes, for being an evidence against James.

Here it should be observed that, by an act of the 4th and 5th of William and Mary, for the more effectual conviction of highwaymen, the evidence of accomplices is allowed; but the evidence cannot claim his liberty unless two or more of his accomplices are convicted; but may be imprisoned during the pleasure of the Court.

Soon after his commitment, Hawes and another fellow made their escape, and, entering into partnership, committed a variety of robberies, particularly on the road between Hackney and Shoreditch.

This connexion, like the former, lasted but a short time: a dispute on dividing their ill-gotten gains occasioned a separation; soon after which Hawes went alone to Finchley Common, where, meeting with a gentleman riding to town, he presented a pistol to his breast, and commanded him instantly to dismount, that he might search him for his money.

The gentleman offered him four shillings, on which Hawes swore

the most horrid oaths, and threatened instant death if he did not immediately submit. The gentleman quitted his horse, and in the same moment seized the pistol, which he snatched from the hand of the robber, and, presenting it to him, told him to expect death if he did not surrender himself.

Hawes, who was now as terrified as he had been insolent, made no opposition; and, the driver of a cart coming up just at that juncture, he was easily made prisoner, conveyed to London, and committed to Newgate.

When the sessions came on, and he was brought to the bar, he refused to plead to his indictment, alleging the following reasons for so doing: that he would die, as he had lived, like a gentleman: 'The people (said he), who apprehended me, seized a suit of fine clothes, which I intended to have gone to the gallows in; and, unless they are returned, I will not plead; for no one shall say that I was hanged in a dirty shirt and ragged coat.'

On this he was told what would be the consequence of his contempt of legal authority; but, this making no impression on him, sentence was pronounced that he should be pressed to death; whereupon he was taken from the Court, and, being laid on his back, sustained a load of two hundred and fifty pounds' weight about seven minutes; but, unable any longer to bear the pain, he entreated he might be conducted back to the Court, which being complied with, he pleaded not guilty; but the evidence against him being complete, he was convicted, and sentenced to die.

After conviction his behaviour was very improper. He told the other capital convicts he would die like a hero, and behaved in the same thoughtless way till the arrival of the warrant for his execution: after which his conduct was not altogether so imprudent. He owned to the Ordinary of Newgate that he was induced to refuse to plead to his indictment that the other prisoners might deem him a man of honour, and not from the idle vanity of being hanged in fine clothes.

He acknowledged many robberies which he had committed, but charged Jonathan Wild as being the principal author of his ruin, by purchasing the stolen goods. He likewise owned that he had been base enough to inform against persons who were innocent, particularly a gentleman's servant who was then in custody; but he did not discover many signs of contrition for this or any other of his offences.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of December, 1721.

The inferences to be drawn from the case of this malefactor are obvious. By his informing against James, lest James should impeach him, we see how little confidence thieves can place in each other; and that partnerships in wickedness are sure to end in destruction.

From the resistance made by the gentleman whom Hawes attacked, and the consequent apprehension of the offender, we may fairly conclude that there is a cowardice naturally attached to guilt, which will almost infallibly favour the cause of the honest man.

WILLIAM BURRIDGE,

EXECUTED FOR HORSE-STEALING,

Was born in Northamptonshire, a carpenter; but, being of a wild disposition, his friends determined

on sending him to sea: accordingly they got him rated as a midshipman, and he sailed to the coast of Spain: but, soon quitting the naval service, he returned to England, and, commencing highwayman, committed many robberies on the road to Hampstead, on Finchley Common, and in the neighbourhood of Hammersmith.

When he first began the practice of robbing, he formed a resolution to retire when he had acquired as much money as would support him: but this time never arrived; for, finding his success by no means proportioned to his expectations, he became one of the gang under Jonathan Wild, of infamous memory; and was for a considerable time screened from justice by that celebrated master of thieves.

Burridge, being confined in New Prison for a capital offence, broke out of that gaol; and he was repeatedly an evidence at the Old Bailey, by which means his associates suffered the rigour of the law. At length, having offended Wild, the latter marked him down as one doomed to suffer at the next execution after the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; which was a common practice with Wild when he grew tired of his dependants, or thought they could be no longer serviceable to him.

Alarmed by this circumstance, Burridge fled into Lincolnshire, where he stole a horse, and brought it to London, intending to sell it at Smithfield for present support: but, the gentleman who lost the horse having sent a full description of it to London, Burridge was seen riding on it through the street, and watched to a livery-stable.

Some persons going to take him, he produced a brace of pistols, threatening destruction to any one who came near him; by which he

got off; but, being immediately pursued, he was apprehended in May-fair, and lodged in Newgate.

On his trial, a man and a woman swore that they saw him purchase the horse; but, as there was a material difference in their stories, the Court was of opinion that they had been hired to swear, and the judge gave directions for their being taken into custody for the perjury.

The jury did not hesitate to find Burridge guilty; and, after sentence was passed, his behaviour was extremely devout; and he encouraged the devotion of others in like unhappy circumstances.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of March, 1722, in the 34th year of his age; having first warned the spectators to be obedient to their parents and masters, and to beware of the crime of debauching young women, which had first led him from the path of duty, and finally ended in his ruin.

The idea this unhappy man had conceived, of leaving off robbing when he had obtained enough to support him, was ridiculous in the highest degree. Perhaps there never was a single instance of a thief retiring on the profits of his plunder. What is got in an illegal manner is always spent in debauchery and extravagance: but, supposing retirement was possible, could that man expect one moment of peace who had acquired his subsistence by acts of dishonesty? He could not eat a morsel of bread, or drink a draught of liquor, but he must reflect that it was not his own. His days would be wretched, and his nights sleepless; he would be terrified by every new face he saw; the fear of detection would be uppermost in his mind; and he would be perpetually tormented with the racking pains of a guilty conscience.

After this dreadful representation

of facts, nothing need be added to convince youth that to tread in the path of virtue is the surest way to

happiness; and that he who deviates from this path is in the certain way to bring destruction on his own head.



Hartley and Reeves robbing a Journeyman Tailor near Harrow.

JOHN HARTLEY AND THOMAS REEVES,

FOOTPADS, EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

THESE offenders were tried for stopping a journeyman tailor, in the fields near Harrow, and robbing him of two pence and his clothes; and, because he had no more money, they beat him most inhumanly, stripped, and bound him to a tree.

While he was in this wretched situation, some persons coming by unbound him, and took him to an alehouse, where he told the particulars of the robbery, mentioned the colour of his clothes, and described the persons of the robbers to the best of his power.

These circumstances were heard by a fiddler, who, going next day

into a public house in Fore Street, saw the fellows offering to sell the tailor's coat. The fiddler immediately proposed to be the purchaser, gave earnest for it, and, pretending he had not money enough, said he would fetch the difference; instead of which he brought the party robbed, who, knowing the footpads, they were taken into custody.

The evidence on their trial was so plain that the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty; in consequence of which they received sentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was unbecoming persons in their

...of Reeves was particularly remarkable: he would sing and pray while the executioner was at his prayers; yet he told the Ordinary that he was certain of going to heaven.

The most curious circumstance arising from the detection of these offenders was the singular method that Harley took to save his life. He procured six young women, dressed in white, to go to St. James's, and present a petition in his behalf. The singularity of their appearance gained them admission; when they delivered their petition, and told the king that, if he extended the royal mercy to the offender, they would cast lots which should be his wife; but his Majesty said that he was more deserving of the gallows than a wife, and accordingly refused their request.

As they were going to execution the Ordinary asked Reeves if his wife had been concerned with him in any robberies. 'No,' said he; 'she is a worthy woman, whose first husband happening to be hanged, I married her, that she might not reproach me by a repetition of his virtues.'

At the fatal tree Reeves behaved in the most hardened manner, affected to despise death, and said he believed he might go to heaven

from the gallows as safely as from his bed.

These offenders suffered at Tyburn on the 4th of May, 1722.

We see, in the instance of these malefactors, from what a casual circumstance their detection arose. A man hears a description of them in a public house; the next day he goes accidentally into another ale-house, where he sees them offering the stolen goods for sale; and, by an honest deception, procures their being taken into custody. The poor fiddler had no interest in their detection but what arose from his abhorrence of vice; yet he was so regardless of what he had heard, that he became the immediate instrument of bringing them to justice.

Hence let us learn to admire the inscrutable mysteries of the providence of God, which, as they surpass our finite comprehension, should excite our wonder and our gratitude. Nothing can be hid from the all-seeing eye of Heaven; and the man that commits a crime with the hope of concealing it does but treasure up a fund of uneasiness for his own mind: for, even if the crime should be concealed from the public, he will be perpetually harassed with the corroding stings of a guilty conscience, and at all times carry with him a hell in his own bosom!

ARUNDEL COOKE, ESQ. AND JOHN WOODBURN, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR CUTTING AND MAIMING MR. CRISP.

PREVIOUS to the passing of what is called the Coventry Act, it was customary for revengeful men to waylay another, and cut and maim him, so that, though he did not die of such wounds, he might remain a cripple during the remainder of life; and such case was not then a capital offence. It was also a dangerous practice resorted to by thieves, who would often cut the sinews of

men's legs, called hamstringing, in order to prevent their escape from being robbed.

Sir John Coventry, in the reign of Charles II. having opposed the measures of the Court in the house of commons, in revenge some armed villains attacked him one night in Covent-garden, slit his nose, and cut off his lips. Shocked by so barbarous a deed, the mem-

bers of both houses of parliament passed an act in a few days, by which it was ordained, that 'Unlawfully cutting out, or disabling, the tongue, of malice aforethought, or, by lying in wait, putting out an eye, slitting the nose or lip, or cutting off or disabling any limb or member of any person, with intent to maim or disfigure, shall be felony without benefit of clergy.' By this law it is likewise enacted, that 'accusories shall likewise be deemed principals.' Cooke and Woodburne, whose crime we are about to relate, were the first who suffered under this act.

Mr. Cooke was born at Bury St. Edmunds, in the county of Suffolk. His father was a man of fortune, and, when he had given him an university education, he sent him to the Temple to study the law, after which he was called to the bar, and acted as a counsellor. After some time he married a young lady, the sister of Mr. Crisp, who lived in the neighbourhood of his native place.

Mr. Crisp, being a gentleman of large property, but of a bad state of health, made his will in favour of Cooke, subject only to a jointure for his sister's use, which was likewise to become the property of the counsellor, in case the lady died before her husband.

It was not long after Mr. Crisp had made his will before he recovered his health in some degree; but he continued an infirm man, though he lived a number of years. This partial recovery gave great uneasiness to Cooke, who, wishing to possess the estate, was anxious for the death of his brother-in-law, though, as he had art enough to conceal his sentiments, they appeared to live on tolerable terms.

However, he at length grew so impatient that he could not come in

possession by the death of Mr. Crisp, that he resolved to remove him by murder; and for that purpose he engaged John Woodburne, a labouring man, who had six children, to assist him in the execution of his diabolical plan; for which piece of service he promised to give him a hundred pounds. The man was unwilling to be concerned in this execrable business; but reflecting on his poverty, and the largeness of his family, he was tempted to comply.

On this it was agreed the murder should be perpetrated on Christmas evening; and, as Mr. Crisp was to dine with Cooke on that day, and the church-yard lay between one house and the other, Woodburne was to wait, concealed behind one of the tomb-stones, till Cooke gave him the signal of attack, which was to be a loud whistle.

Crisp came to his appointment, and dined and drank tea with his brother-in-law; but, declining to stay supper, he left the house about nine o'clock, and was almost immediately followed into the church-yard by Cooke, who giving the agreed signal, Woodburne quitted his place of retreat, knocked down the unhappy man, and cut and maimed him in a terrible manner, in which he was abetted by the counsellor.

Imagining they had dispatched him, Mr. Cooke rewarded Woodburne with a few shillings, and instantly went home; but he had not arrived more than a quarter of an hour before Mr. Crisp knocked at the door, and entered covered with wounds, and almost dead through loss of blood. He was unable to speak, but by his looks seemed to accuse Cooke with the intended murder, and was then put to bed, and his wounds dressed by a surgeon.

At the end of about a week he was so much mended as to be removed to his house. He had no doubt but Cooke was one of the persons who had assaulted him ; but had resolved not to speak of the affair till future circumstances made it necessary for him to inform a court of justice of what had happened.

The intended assassination having greatly engaged the attention of the neighbours, Woodburne was apprehended on suspicion ; when, making a discovery of the whole truth, Cooke was also taken into custody. They were brought to their trials at the next assizes, and both convicted.

When they were called upon to receive sentence of death, Cooke desired to be heard : and, the Court complying with his request, he urged that ' Judgment could not pass on the verdict, because the act of parliament simply mentions an intention to maim or deface, whereas he was firmly resolved to have committed murder.'

He quoted several law cases in favour of the arguments he had advanced, and hoped that judgment might be respited till the opinion of the twelve judges could be taken on the case. The counsel for the crown opposed the arguments of Cooke, insisted that the crime came within the meaning of the law, and hoped that judgment would pass against the prisoners.

Lord-chief-justice King, who presided on this occasion, declared he could not admit the force of Mr. Cooke's plea, consistent with his own oath as a judge : ' for (said he) it would establish a principle in the law, inconsistent with the first dictates of natural reason, as the greatest villain might, when convicted of a smaller offence, plead *that the judgment must be arrested,*

because he intended to commit a greater. In the present instance (said he) judgment cannot be arrested, as the intention is naturally implied when the crime is actually committed.'

His lordship said that ' Crisp was assassinated in the manner laid in the indictment ; it is, therefore, to be taken for granted, that the intention was to maim and deface ; wherefore the court will proceed to give judgment :' and, accordingly, sentence of death was passed on Cooke and his accomplice.

After condemnation, the former employed his time principally in endeavours to procure a pardon ; and, when he found his expectations fail him, he grew reserved, and would not admit even the visits of his friends. On the contrary, Woodburne was all penitence and contrition, sincerely lamenting the crime he had been guilty of, and the miserable situation in which he left his poor children.

A short time before the day of execution, Cooke wrote to the sheriff, requesting that he might be hanged in the night, to prevent his being exposed to the country people, who were expected from all the adjacent towns and villages ; and, in consequence hereof, he was hanged at four o'clock in the morning, and Woodburne was executed in the afternoon of the same day. The latter behaved with every sign of penitence ; but Cooke's conduct was very unfeeling, and he absolutely refused to confess his crime.

These malefactors were executed at Bury St. Edmunds, on the 5th of April, 1722.

Serious reflections may well be made on the above melancholy tale. The baseness of Cooke's heart must render him an object of detestation to every feeling mind. Of all the vices that can degrade humanity,

covetousness is one of the meanest. The very wish to possess what is not our right implies a degree of dishonesty; but the man whose covetous disposition can instigate him to the thought of committing murder is below the beasts that perish, and ought to be ranked with the infernal fiends.

What must have been Cooke's thoughts on the Christmas-day, when he was entertaining his brother-in-law with an appearance of friendship and hospitality, yet had determined to murder him! Neither the sanctity nor the decent festivity of the season could compose or cheer a mind bent on the perpetration of so horrid a deed. The case of this man will teach us the force of the commandment, 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant,

nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.'

With regard to Woodburne, though not an object of pity, he is less an object of detestation than Cooke: His large family and distressed circumstances were temptations. He might say, in the words of the poet—

My poverty, but not my will, consents.

Still, however, his crime was of an aggravated nature, for no temptation should induce a man to embue his hands in the blood of a fellow-creature. How dreadful to think of rushing into eternity with the crime of murder on the head! May the preventing grace of God preserve us all from the perpetration of so shocking a deed! May we live in a continual sense of our duty, and seek to make our own lives comfortable by acts of compassion and humanity to our fellow-creatures!

JOHN HAWKINS AND JAMES SIMPSON,

HIGHWAYMEN, EXECUTED FOR MAIL-ROBBERY.

JOHN HAWKINS was born of poor but honest parents, at Staines, in Middlesex, and for some time lived as waiter at the Red Lion at Brentford; but, leaving this place, he engaged as a gentleman's servant.

Having been at length in different families, he became butler to Sir Denis Drury, and was distinguished as a servant of very creditable appearance. His person was uncommonly graceful, and he was remarkably vain of it. He used to frequent gaming-tables two or three nights in a week—a practice which led to that ruin which finally befell him.

About this time Sir Denis had been robbed of a considerable quantity of plate; and, as Hawkins's mode of life was very expensive, it

was suspected that he was the thief; for which reason he was discharged, without the advantage of a good character.

Being thus destitute of the means of subsistence, he had recourse to the highway, and his first expedition was to Hounslow Heath, where he took eleven pounds from the passengers in a coach; but such was his attachment to gaming, that he repaired directly to London, and lost it all.

He continued to rob alone for some time, and then engaged with other highwaymen: but the same fate still attended him; he lost by gaming what he acquired at so much risk, and was frequently so reduced as to dine at an eating-house, and sneak off without paying his reckoning,

Several of his old companions having met their interests at the gallops, he became acquainted with one Wilson, a youth of good education, who had been articled to a solicitor in Chancery, but had neglected his business through an attachment to the gaming-table. These associates, having committed several robberies in conjunction, were tried for one of them, but acquitted for want of evidence.

After this Wilson went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby, in Yorkshire, and continued with her for about a year, and then, coming to London, lived with a gentleman of the law; but, having lost his money in gaming, renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now concerned with a new gang of villains; one of whom, however, being apprehended, impeached the rest, which soon depressed the gang, but not until some of them had made their exit at Tyburn; on which Hawkins was obliged to conceal himself for a considerable time; but at length he ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley Common, and shot one of his servants too, who died on the spot.

His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce, in Richmond Lane, from whom he took about twenty pounds, two gold watches, and a sapphire ring. For this ring a reward of one hundred pounds was offered to Jonathan Wild; but Hawkins sailed to Holland with it, and there sold it for forty pounds.

On his return to England he joined his companions, of whom Wilson was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about three pounds, a snuff-box, and a pocket-book, for which last Sir David offered sixty pounds' reward to Wild; but Hawkins's gang having no con-

nexion with that villain, who did not even know their persons, they sent the book by a porter to Sir David, without expense.

They next stopped Mr. Hyde, of Hackney, in his coach, and robbed him of ten pounds and his watch, but missed three hundred pounds which the gentleman then had in his possession. After this they stopped the Earl of Westmorland's coach, in Lincoln's-in Fields, and robbed him of a sum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called the watch, but the robbers firing a pistol over their heads, the guardians of the night decamped.

Hawkins had now resolved to carry the booty obtained in several late robberies to Holland; but Jonathan Wild, having heard of the connexion, counsel some of the gang to be apprehended; on which the rest went into the country to hide themselves.

On this occasion Hawkins and Wilson went to Oxford, and, paying a visit to the Bodleian Library, the former wantonly defaced some pictures in the gallery; and one hundred pounds' reward was offered to discover the offender, when a poor tailor, having been taken upon suspicion, narrowly escaped being whipped, merely because he was of whiggish principles.

Hawkins and his friend returning to London, the latter, coming of age at that time, succeeded to a little estate his father had left him, which he sold for three hundred and fifty pounds, a small part of which he lent to his companions to buy horses, and soon dissipated the rest at the gaming-table.

The associates now stopped two gentlemen in a chariot on the Hampstead road, who both fired at once, by which three slugs were lodged in Hawkins's shoulder, and the high-

waymen got to London with some difficulty. On Hawkins's recovery, they attempted to stop a gentleman's coach in Hyde Park; but, the coachman driving hastily, Wilson fired, and, wounding himself in the hand, found it difficult to scale the Park wall, to effect his escape.

This circumstance occasioned some serious thoughts in his mind, in consequence of which he set out for his mother's house in Yorkshire, where he was kindly received, and fully determined never to recur to his former practices.

While he was engaged in his mother's business, and planning schemes for domestic happiness, he was sent for to a public house, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with one George Simpson, another associate, who was a native of Putney, in Surry. His father was a wine-merchant, but, being reduced in circumstances, removed into Lincolnshire. Young Simpson kept a public house at Lincoln, and acted as a sheriff's officer; but, quitting the country, he came to London, and was butler to lord Castlemain; after which he lived in several other creditable places, till he became acquainted with Hawkins.

Wilson was shocked at seeing them, and asked what could induce them to take such a journey. Hereupon Hawkins swore violently, said Wilson was impeached, and would be taken into custody in a few days. This induced him to go to London with them; but, on his arrival, he found that the story of the impeachment was false.

When in London, they formed connexions with other thieves, and committed several robberies, for which some of the gang were executed. They frequented a public house at London Wall, the master of which kept a livery-stable, so

that they rode out at all hours, and robbed the stages as they were coming into town. They took not only money, but portmanteaus, &c. and divided the booty with Carter, the master of the livery-stable.

Thus they continued their depredations on the public, till one of their associates, named Child, was executed at Aylesbury, and hung in chains, for robbing the mail. This incensed them to such a degree, that they determined to avenge the supposed insult by committing a similar crime.

Having mentioned their design in the presence of Carter, the stable-keeper, he advised them to stop the mail from Harwich; but this they declined, because the changing of the wind must render the time of its arrival uncertain. At length it was determined to rob the Bristol mail; and they set out on an expedition for that purpose.

It appeared on the trial that the boy who carried the mail was overtaken at Slough by a countryman, who travelled with him to Langley Broom, where a person rode up to them, and turned back again. When passing through Colnbrook, they saw the same man again, with two others, who followed them at a small distance, and then pulled their wigs over their foreheads, and, holding handkerchiefs in their mouths, came up with them, and commanded the post-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, when they ordered them to quit their horses; and then Hawkins, Simpson, and Wilson, tied them back to back, and fastened them to a tree in a wet ditch, so that they were obliged to stand in the water. This being done, they took such papers as they liked out of the Bath and Bristol bags, and hid the rest in a hedge.

They now crossed the Thames,

and, riding a little way into Surry, put up their horses at an inn in Bermondsey Street. It was now about six in the morning, when they parted, and went different ways to a public house in the Minories, where they proposed to divide their ill-gotten treasure.

The landlord being well acquainted with their persons, and knowing the profusion of his guests, showed them a private room, and supplied them with pen and ink. Having equally divided the bank-notes, they threw the letters in the fire, and then went to their lodgings, in Green-arbour Court, in the Old Bailey.

A few days after this, information was given at the Post-office that suspicious people frequented the house of Carter, the stable-keeper, at London-wall: accordingly some persons were sent thither to make the necessary discoveries. Wilson, happening to be there at the time, suspected their business; on which he abruptly retired, slipped through some by-alleys, and got into the Moorgate coffee-house, which he had occasionally used for two years before, on account of its being frequented by reputable company, and therefore less liable to be searched for suspicious people.

He had not been long in the house before a Quaker mentioned the search that was making in the neighbourhood for the men who had robbed the mail. This shocked him so that he instantly paid his reckoning, and, going out at the back-door, went to Bedlam, where the melancholy sight of the objects around him induced him to draw a comparison between their situation and his own; and he concluded that he was far more unhappy, through the weight of his guilt, than those poor wretches whom it had pleased God to deprive of the *use of their intellects*.

Having reflected that it would not be safe for him to stay longer in London, he resolved to go to Newcastle by sea, and he was confirmed in this resolution upon being told by a person who wished his safety that he and his companions were the parties suspected of having robbed the mail. This friend likewise advised him to go to the Post-office, surrender, and turn evidence; hinting that, if he did not, it was probable Simpson would, as he had asked some questions which seemed to intimate such a design.

Wilson neglected this advice, but held his resolution of going to Newcastle, and with that intention quitted Bedlam; but by Moorgate coffee-house he met the men he had seen at Carter's. They turned and followed him; yet, unperceived by them, he entered the coffee-house, while they went under the arch of the gate; and, if he had returned by the door he entered, he would have again escaped them; but, going out of the fore-door of the house, they took him into custody, and conducted him to the Post-office.

On his first examination, he refused to make any confession; and, on the following day, he seemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumstances induced him to reveal it. In the first place the postmaster-general promised that he should be admitted an evidence if he would discover his accomplices; and one of the clerks, calling him aside, showed him a letter, without any name to it, of which the following is a copy:

'Sir,—I am one of those persons who robbed the mail, which I am sorry for; and, to make amends, I will secure my two companions as soon as may be. He whose hand this shall appear to be will, I hope, be entitled to the reward of his pardon.'

As Wilson knew this letter to be of Simpson's hand-writing, he thought himself justified in making a full discovery, which he accordingly did, in consequence of which his associates were apprehended at their lodgings in the Old Bailey, two days afterwards. At first they made an appearance of resistance, and threatened to shoot the peace-officers; but, the latter saying they were provided with arms, the offenders yielded, and were committed to Newgate. On the trial, Hawkins endeavoured to prove that he was in London at the time that the mail was robbed; and one Fuller, of Bedfordbury, swore that he lodged at his house on that night.

To ascertain this, Fuller produced a receipt for thirty shillings, which he said Hawkins then paid him for horse-hire. The judge desired to look at that receipt, and observed that the body of it was written with an ink of a different colour from that of the name at the bottom: on which he ordered the note to be handed to the jury, and remarked that Fuller's testimony deserved no kind of credit. After examining some other witnesses, the judge proceeded to sum up the evidence, in which he was interrupted by the following singular occurrence, as stated by the shorthand writer:

'My ink, as it happened, was very bad, being thick at bottom, and thin and waterish at top; so that, according as I dipped my pen, the writing appeared very pale or pretty black. Now, just as the Court was remarking on the difference of the ink in Fuller's receipt, a gentleman who stood by me, perceiving something of the same kind in my writing, desired to look upon my notes for a minute. As I was not aware of any ill consequences, I let him take my book out of my

hand; when presently, showing it to his friend, "See here (said he) what difference there is in the colour of the same ink!" His friend took it, and showed it to another. Uneasy at this, I spoke to them to return me my book. They begged my pardon, and said I should have it in a minute; but this answer was no sooner given, than a curiosity suddenly entered one of the jurymen who sat just by, and he too begged a sight of the book, which, notwithstanding my importunity, was immediately handed to him. He viewed it, and gave it to the next, and so it passed from one to the other, till the judge, perceiving them very busy, called to them, "Gentlemen, what are you doing? What book is that?" They told him it was the writer's book, and they were observing how the same ink appeared pale in one place and black in another. "You ought not, gentlemen," says he, "to take notice of any thing but what is produced in evidence;" and then, turning to me, demanded what I meant by showing that to the jury. I answered that I could not fix upon the persons, for the gentlemen near me were all strangers to me, and I was far from imagining I should have any such occasion for taking particular notice of them.—His lordship then resumed his charge to the jury, which being ended, they withdrew to consider of their verdict.'

After staying out about an hour, the jury returned into Court without agreeing on a verdict, saying they could not be convinced that Fuller's receipt was not genuine, merely on account of the different colours of the ink.

Hereupon the Court intimated how many witnesses had sworn that Hawkins was absent from London, to contradict all of whom there was

only the evidence of Fuller, which was at least rendered doubtful by the ink appearing of two colours: and it was submitted whether Fuller's testimony ought to be held of equal validity with that of all the opposing parties. Hereupon the jury went out of Court, and, on their return, gave a verdict of guilty against both the prisoners.

At the place of execution Hawkins addressed the surrounding multitude, acknowledging his sins, professing to die in charity with all mankind, and begging the prayers of those who were witnesses of his melancholy exit. He died with great difficulty; but Simpson was out of his pain almost without a struggle. They suffered at Tyburn on the 31st of May, 1722, and were hung in chains on Hounslow Heath.

Robbing the mail is a crime of so enormous a magnitude, that we are at a loss to find language in which to express our abhorrence of it. It is inconceivable what distress may be occasioned by the perpetration of an act of this nature. 'Tradesmen who expect remittances by the post may be ruined by their not arriving in time; and the bankruptcy of one may be the destruction of many. Hence it is possible that hundreds of honest manufacturers, and other dependents on shopkeepers, may suffer through the wickedness of one man, who is base enough to rob the mail.

Those who think on this circumstance must shudder with horror, if they have any concern for the welfare of their fellow-creatures. It is no wonder that our laws have provided for the punishment of this crime in the most exemplary manner; and it is observable that it is less frequent than that of any other species of robbery. This seems to show how dangerous it is

held even by thieves; for we cannot suppose that they are restrained from the commission of this crime, more than of others, by any superior motives of honesty, or regard for the public welfare.

With respect to the case of the criminals in question, it appears that they had taken every precaution to prevent a discovery; but the all-seeing eye of Heaven brought their most secret transactions to light. Wilson's consciousness of guilt when he saw the persons from the post-office at London Wall, his reflections when in Bedlam, and his being afterwards taken by the accident of going out at the wrong door of the coffee-house, are all circumstances well worthy the notice of the reader.

From Simpson's sending a letter offering to secure his companions, we may learn the fallacy of that proverb which says that there is 'honour among thieves.' When once men have broken the band of common honesty, when they have declared war upon the public, there can be no security that they will act with integrity towards each other. On the contrary, it is to be presumed that they will be friends no longer than an outward show of friendship may promote their present interest.

Upon the whole, the fate of these malefactors should teach us that there can be no happiness independent of virtue; and that combinations in wickedness must be soon dissolved, from their own nature. Wherefore let us be careful in the selection of our company; let us remember that money obtained by dishonest means will afford us no satisfaction; and may we consider the force of that proverb of Solomon, 'Riches profit not in the day of wrath; but righteousness delivereth from death.'

NATHANIEL JACKSON,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY,

Was a native of Doncaster, in Yorkshire, whose father, dying while he was very young, left a sum of money for his use in the hands of a relation, who apprenticed him to a silk-weaver in Norwich. He had frequent disputes with his master, with whom he lived three years, and then ran away.

At length his guardian found out his retreat, and sent to inform him that, as he was averse to business, his friends wished that a place might be purchased for him, with the money left by his father. But Jackson, being of an unsettled disposition, enlisted in the army, and was sent to Ireland.

After a while, being disgusted with his low condition, he solicited his discharge, which having obtained, he procured some money of his friends, and gave fifteen guineas to be admitted into a troop of dragoons; but, soon quarreling with one of his comrades, a duel ensued, in which Jackson wounded the other in such a horrid manner, that he was turned out of the regiment.

He then returned to England, and lived some time with his guardian in Yorkshire: being averse to a life of sobriety, he afterwards went to London, where he spent, in the most extravagant manner, the little money he brought with him. Reduced to the utmost distress, he casually met John Murphy and Neal O'Brian, whom he had known in Ireland. After they had drank together, O'Brian produced a considerable sum of money, saying, 'You see how I live: I never want money; and if you have but courage, and dare walk with me towards Hampstead to-night, I'll show you how easy it is to get it.'

As Jackson and Murphy were both of dissolute manners, and very poor, they were easily persuaded to be concerned in this dangerous enterprise. Between Tottenham-court Road and Hampstead they stopped a poor man named Dennis, from whom they took his coat, waistcoat, two shirts, thirteen pence in money, and some other trifling articles, and then bound him to a tree. No sooner were they gone, than he struggled hard, got loose, and, meeting a person whom he knew, they pursued them to a night-house in the Haymarket, where Murphy and Jackson were taken into custody, but O'Brian made his escape.

On their trial, as soon as Dennis had given his testimony, they owned the fact they had committed, in consequence of which they received sentence of death; but Murphy obtained a reprieve. Jackson's brother exerted all his influence to save his life; but, his endeavours proving ineffectual, he sent him a letter to inform him of it, which was written in such an affecting manner as to overwhelm his mind with the most poignant affliction.

While under sentence of death, Jackson behaved in the most penitent manner, confessed the sins of his past life with the deepest signs of contrition, was earnest in his devotions, and made every preparation for his approaching end. He was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of July, 1722.

It is observable, in the case of this malefactor, that he suffered for the first robbery he ever committed, of which we have any account; and that his vices and extravagance had reduced him to such

a state of poverty as to induce him to listen to the first temptation that was ever thrown in his way.

Hence let the young and thoughtless guard against the slightest appearance of evil. Let them shun bad company as they would a pestilence; let them learn the advan-

tages of frugality, and consider that a man who is temperate and prudent will have no temptation to be dishonest. It may be useful to keep in mind this text of Scripture, 'The wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.'

THOMAS BUTLOGE,

HANGED FOR ROBBING HIS MASTER.

This offender was a native of Ireland, where he received a good education, and was then apprenticed to a vintner in Dublin; but the house in which he lived not being of the most reputable kind, he became witness of such scenes as had a natural tendency to debauch his morals.

Butloge's master, having got considerably in debt, came to England, and resided some time at Chester, whither the apprentice was frequently sent with such remittances as the wife could spare.

At length Butloge quitted his service, and came to England, with a view to settle there: but, being unsuccessful in his endeavour to procure an establishment, he returned to Dublin, where he engaged in the service of a shopkeeper, whose daughter he soon afterwards married.

He had now a fair prospect of success before him, as his wife's father proposed to have resigned business in his favour; but, being of an unsettled disposition, and having conceived an idea of making his fortune in England, he could not bring his mind to think of the regular pursuit of trade.

Unhappily for him, while he was amusing himself with the imagination of his future greatness, he received a letter from a relation in England, inviting him thither, and *engaging his interest to obtain him*

ing his interest to obtain him

a place, on which he might live in a genteel manner. Batloge readily accepted this invitation, and, immediately embarking for England, soon arrived in London.

He now took lodgings at the Court end of the town, and, living in a gay style, soon spent all the money he had brought with him from Ireland; and, his relation not being able to obtain the place for him which he had expected, he was reduced to the necessity of going to service, on which he entered into that of Mr. Langie, a French gentleman.

He had not been long in this new place, when Mr. Langlie, going to church on a Sunday, recollected that he had forgot to lock his bureau, in which he had deposited a sum of money ; whereupon he went home, and found Batloge in the room where the money was left. When Mr. Langlie had counted his cash, the other asked him if he missed any thing, and the master answered, one guinea, which Batloge said he had found by the side of the bureau ; whereupon his master gave him two shillings, in approbation of this instance of his honesty.

Mr. Langlie went to Chelsea in the afternoon, and during his absence Butloge broke open his bureau, robbed it of all the money, and several other valuable effects, and then took a horse, which he had hired for a gentleman to go to

Chester, and set off on his way to Ireland.

When Mr. Langlie returned in the evening, he discovered the loss he had sustained; on which he applied to Lord Gage, who wrote to the postmaster of Chester to stop the delinquent; in consequence of which he was apprehended with the stolen goods in his possession, and sent to London to take his trial, which happened soon afterwards at the Old Bailey, when he was capitally convicted.

After he had received sentence of death, he acknowledged that he was not tempted by want to the commission of the crime which had brought him into such deplorable circumstances; but that the vanity of appearing as a gentleman had been one principal instigation; and he was encouraged by the consideration that Mr. Langlie would soon return to France, so that there would be no person to prosecute him. He submitted to his unhappy lot with resignation, declaring that the thoughts of death did not so much terrify him as the reflection on the disgrace that he had brought on his family.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of July, 1722, along with Nathaniel Jackson.

From the case of Butloge we may see the propriety of parents making choice of such professions for their children as will not necessarily expose them to temptations. The scenes he was witness to during his apprenticeship had, as we have ob-

served, a natural tendency to debauch his manners; and, though they did not absolutely make a thief of him, yet they prepared his mind for the reception of the first ill impression that should be made on it. The poet says,

Children, like tender osiers, take the bow;
And as they first are fashioned always grow.
And to this observation the moralist may add, that 'Nothing is so likely to contaminate the mind as the seeing others proceed in the ways of pleasurable iniquity without control.'

The almost immediate fate of this man, consequent on the robbing his master, should teach servants in general the propriety of behaving with fidelity to their protectors; and his stealing Mr. Langlie's money so soon after receiving a gratuity from him for his supposed integrity exhibits an instance of ingratitude which we hope will never be imitated.

Of late years we have seldom known an instance of a servant's robbing his master, and being convicted, but he has suffered the utmost rigour of the law: and indeed it is proper it should be so; for an offence of this nature is one of the most enormous crimes of which any person can be guilty.

Butloge seems to have been, in some degree, a sacrifice to his own pride and ambition. Let those who are tempted to act as he did remember that 'A man's pride shall bring him low; but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.'

MARGARET FISHER,

WHO RECEIVED SENTENCE OF DEATH, BUT WAS AFTERWARDS PARDONED.

THIS trial contains nothing in the case itself of import sufficient to be allotted a place in these volumes; however, it presents an extraordinary specimen of the Scotch dialect,

which those far removed from the Northern extremity of Britain will deem a curiosity.

At the sessions of the Old Bailey in September, 1722, Margaret

Fisher was tried for privately stealing thirteen guineas from the person of Daniel M'Donald, who gave the following evidence, with true Scotch pronunciation and gesticulation :

' And leek yer loardship, I had just taken my wages, thirteen guineas in goud, and was gawn alang King Strate in Westmanster, when I mat wi' this sow quean at the bare, and she speird where I was gawn ; I taud her hame. She said gen I wad ga wi' har tull Joanny Davis's hoose, she wad gi' me drame, sir, for, in troth, she tuck me for a poor gawkey boss-headed chiel, and leek yer loardship. Sa she tuck had o' my haind, and lad me a gat I kenna reet weel. And when we came tull Joanny Davis's hoose, she caud for muckle beer and braindy, and gerd me as bung as a swobe, and leek yer hoanour. I staid there wi' her a pratty while ; and thane, sir, I put my haind in tall my bricks, to feel for money to pay the rackoning ; but the deel a bawble could I find, for it was aw tint. And when I speird about it, they glowed, and taud me, gen I wanna' tack myself awaw, they wad gar me ga, wi' a deel to me ; and sa, sir, they dang me su' sair, and turned me oot at the back door, intall the strate, and I rambled aboot, and con' na' find the hoose agen ; and the watchmen met wi' me, and carried me untill the roond hoose. And there I tand 'em hoo I had been roabed. The neist moarning I gaed and food oot Joanny Davis's hoose, but she was ran awaw, and the prasoner too. But at neet, about saven a cloke, I mat wi' this impudent betch at the bare, and tuck her up. I ken well enough that she must ha' my goud, for na saal also wi' me but Joanny Davis, wha brote what awd for. Let her denec it an
Somebody (but I kenna'

what it was) offered me sax guineas in my haind to make the matter up, but I wanna tack it.'

In her defence the prisoner alleged that, meeting with a coachman and the prosecutor, the former asked her to drink ; on which they went to the house of Mrs. Davis ; but that she sat on the opposite side of the room that the prosecutor did, and had not robbed him ; and that nothing was found upon her when she was searched. The jury not believing her allegations, and the prisoner having no person to appear in behalf of her character, she was found guilty, and received sentences of death. Having, however, pleaded pregnancy, which was confirmed by a jury of matrons, she was afterwards pardoned.

The remark to be made on this case arises from the folly of those men who will suffer themselves to be robbed by the women of the town. Nothing is more common than for countrymen to be picked up by these abandoned creatures, who entice them to drink, and then strip them of their whole property. One would imagine that the repeated accounts of these transactions given in the newspapers might be sufficient to guard all men against the artifices of these wretches : but experience proves the contrary. It may, therefore, be proper to caution our readers from a higher authority than that of the newspapers.

' My son, attend unto my wisdom ; and bow thine ear to my understanding :—that thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge :—for the lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smother than oil :—but her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword : her feet go down to death ; her steps take hold on hell.'—Proverbs.

**RICHARD OAKY, JOHN LEVEE, AND MATTHEW FLOOD,
EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.**

ABOUT 1722 London and its environs were infested with desperate gangs of villains, of which a felon of the name of Blake was the Macheath; and in which character he was known as Captain Blueskin. In a few pages we shall give the particulars of this depredator; who, on the present occasion, owed his escape alone to his baseness in impeaching his associates in villainy.

Oaky, Levee, and Flood, were three of this gang: the first was apprenticed to a tailor in London, from whom he ran away, after serving about two years. He then associated with a set of blackguard boys, who for some time procured a miserable subsistence by picking of pockets, and who afterwards proceeded to the practice of cutting off the pockets of women.

In order to do this effectually, one of them used to trip up the women's heels, while the other cut off the pocket; and they generally got out of the reach of detection before the party robbed could recover her legs.

Many of Oaky's associates belonged to Jonathan Wild's gang, who caused several of them to be hanged, when he could make no further advantage of them. Having thus lost his old acquaintance, he became connected with a woman of the town, who taught him the following singular method of robbery.

In their excursions through the streets, the woman went a little before Oaky, and, when she observed a lady walking near where a coach was turning, she used to catch her in her arms, crying, 'Take care, madam, you will be run over;' and in the interim Oaky was certain to cut off her pocket. But this way of life did not last long, for this abandoned woman soon

after died in consequence of some bruises she received from a fellow she had ill treated; and, on her death, Oaky followed the practice of snatching off pockets without a partner, and became one of the most dexterous in his profession.

Not long after this, he became acquainted with several house-breakers, who persuaded him to follow their course of life, as more profitable than stealing of pockets. In the first attempt they were successful; but the second, in which two others were concerned with him, was the breaking open a shop in the Borough, from whence they stole a quantity of calimancoes; for which offence Oaky was apprehended: on which he impeached his accomplices, one of whom was hanged, and the other transported, on his evidence.

Deterred from the thoughts of housebreaking by this adventure, he returned for a while to his old employment, and then became acquainted with a man called Will the Sailor, when their plan of robbery was this: Will, who wore a sword, used to affront persons in the streets, and provoke them till they stripped to fight with him; and then Oaky used to decamp with their clothes. However, these associates in iniquity soon quarrelled and parted; and Oaky, who by this time was an accomplished thief, entered into Jonathan Wild's gang; among whom were John Levee, Matthew Flood, and Blueskin. These men were for some time the terror of travellers near London.

John Levee was the son of a French gentleman who resided some time in England during the reign of Charles II. and taught the French language to three natural sons of that prince; but he retired

to Holland, and there died, soon after the advancement of King William to the throne. Young Levee was educated at the expense of the French Protestants in London, and was then bound apprentice to a captain in the royal navy.

He served as a sailor for some years, and was present at the defeat of the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean, in Queen Anne's reign; and afterwards sailed under Admiral Norris, in his fruitless expedition against the Russian fleet in the Baltic.

When the admiral came back to England, Levee's friends recommended him to the service of a merchant in Thames Street, in the capacity of under clerk, for which he was not ill qualified: but, being of too unsettled a temper to apply himself to business, he declined this opportunity of providing for himself, and soon spent the little money he was possessed of.

Going one evening to a public house in Holborn, he met with some thieves of Jonathan Wild's gang, who soon persuaded him to join them in their lawless depredations, which at length brought him to destruction.

Matthew Flood was the son of parents of good character, and born at Shadwell. He was apprenticed to a lighterman, with whom he lived a considerable time: but, being averse to a life of labour, his master and he parted by joint consent; and soon afterwards he became acquainted with Oaky and Levee, and their dissolute companions.

Among other atrocious robberies they stopped a coach between Camberwell and London, in which were five men and a woman. The men said they would deliver their money, but begged they would not search, *as the lady was with child*. Blueskin, holding a hat, received the money the passengers put into it,

which appeared to be a considerable sum, but, on examination, it was found to be chiefly halfpence. The gang suspected that Blueskin had defrauded them, as it was not the first time he had cheated his fellow-thieves; but they were greatly mortified that they had neglected to search the coach, when they afterwards learned there were three hundred pounds in it.

Some time after this, Oaky, Levee, Flood, and Blueskin, stopped Colonel Cope and Mr. Young, in a carriage, on their return from Hampstead, and robbed them of their watches, rings, and money. Information of this robbery was sent to Jonathan Wild, who caused the parties to be apprehended; and, Blueskin being admitted an evidence, they were tried, convicted, sentenced, and ordered for execution.

After conviction their behaviour was exceedingly proper for persons in their calamitous situation. They did not flatter themselves with vain hopes of a pardon, but exerted themselves, by every act of devotion, to make a proper preparation for their approaching end.

At the last scene of their lives they addressed the spectators, advising them to take warning by their fatal end.

Oaky said that what gave him more concern than all his other offences was the burning a will which he found with some money and rings in a pocket which he had cut from a lady's side; a circumstance which proved highly detrimental to the owner.

These offenders suffered at Tyburn on the 8th of February, 1723.

In this, as in almost every other instance before us, we see that the ways of vice lead to destruction, to present disgrace, certain death, and perpetual infamy. We learn also the falshood of that common

Time of death of Blueskin, Flood, Oaky, and Levee, on the 8th of February, 1723.

and perpetual infamy. We learn also the falsehood of that common maxim that there is 'honour among thieves.' Oaky became an evidence against his associates, in consequence of which one of them was hanged, and the other transported. After this Blueskin became an evidence against Oaky and his two companions, all of whom suffered the utmost rigour of the law. Jonathan Wild made tools of these poor wretches for a while; and, when they had run their career,

he gave them up to public justice.

What a picture does this furnish of the calamitous life of a thief, who has not one friend in whom he can confide, nor can he think himself in security even for a single moment! The terrors of his conscience must for ever haunt him; sleep must fly from his eyes, and peace from his breast. The gallows must be continually in his view, and every previous hour of his life must be im-bittered by reflecting on the disgraceful one that is to end it.



Brinsden killing his Wife in a Quarrel.

MATTHIAS BRINSDEN,

EXECUTED FOR KILLING HIS WIFE.

This offender served his time to a cloth-drawer, in Blackfriars, named Beech, who, dying, was succeeded by Mr. Byfield, who left his business to Brinsden, who married Byfield's widow; but how long she lived with him is uncertain.

After the death of this wife, he married a second, by whom he had ten children, some of the elder of whom were brought up to work at his business. At length he was seized with a fever so violent that it distracted him, so that he was

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tied down to his bed. This misfortune occasioned such a decay in his trade, that on his recovery he carried news papers, and did any other business he could, to support his family.

Going home about nine o'clock one evening, his wife, who was sitting on a bed, suckling a young child, asked him what he should have for supper. To which he answered, "Bread and cheese; can't you eat that as well as the children?" She replied, "No, I want a bit of meat." "But (said he) I have no money to buy you any." In answer to which she said, "You know I have had but little to-day;" and, some farther words arising between them, he stabbed her under her left breast with a knife.

The deed was no sooner perpetrated than one of the daughters snatched the infant from the mother's breast, and another cried out, "O Lord! father, you have killed my mother." The prisoner now sent for some basilicon and sugar, which he applied to the wound, and then made his escape.

A surgeon, being sent for, found that the wound was mortal, and the poor woman died soon after he came, and within half an hour of the time the wound was given.

In the interim the murderer had retreated to the house of Mr. King, a barber, at Shadwell; whence, on the following day, he sent a letter to one of his daughters, and another to a woman of his acquaintance; and in consequence of these letters he was discovered, taken into custody, carried before a magistrate, and committed to take his trial for the murder.

When on trial, he urged, in his defence, that his wife was in some degree intoxicated, that she wanted to go out and drink with her companions, and that, while he en-

deavoured to hinder her, she threw herself against the knife, and received an accidental wound.

However, the evidence against him was so clear, that his allegations had no weight, and he received sentence of death. After conviction he became serious and resigned; and being visited by one of his daughters, who had given evidence against him, he took her in his arms, and said, "God forgive me, I have robbed you of your mother: be a good child, and rather die than steal: never be in a passion; but curb your anger, and honour your mistress: she will be as a father and mother to you. Farewell, my dear child; pray for your father, and think of him as favourably as you can."

On his way to the place of execution, the daughter above mentioned was permitted to go into the cart, to take her last farewell of him,—a scene that was greatly affecting to the spectators.

As some reports very unfavourable to this malefactor had been propagated during his confinement, he desired the Ordinary of Newgate to read the following speech just before he was launched into eternity.

"I was born of kind parents, who gave me learning: I went apprentice to a fine-drawer. I had often jars, which might increase a natural waspishness in my temper. I fell in love with Hannah, my last wife, and after much difficulty won her, she having five suitors courting her at the same time. We had ten children (half of them dead), and I believe we loved each other dearly; but often quarrelled and fought.

"Pray, good people, mind, I had no malice against her, nor thought to kill her two minutes before the deed; but I designed

only to make her obey me thoroughly, which the Scripture says all wives should do. This I thought I had done when I cut her skull on Monday, but she was the same again by Tuesday.

'Good people, I request you to observe, that the world has spitefully given out, that I carnally and incestuously lay with my eldest daughter. I here solemnly declare, as I am entering into the presence of God, I never knew whether she was a man or a woman since she was a babe. I have often taken her in my arms, often kissed her, sometimes given her a cake or a pie, when she did any particular service beyond what came to her share; but never lay with her, or carnally knew her, much less had a child by her. But when a man is in calamities, and is hated like me, the women will make surmises be certainities.

'Good Christians, pray for me! I deserve death: I am willing to die; for, though my sins are great, God's mercies are greater.'

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722.

If any credit is to be given to Brinsden's last solemn declaration, his wife, as well as himself, seems to have been of an unhappy disposition, since they could not refrain from quarrelling, though they had a sincere regard for each other. We fear this is but too commonly the case in the married state; but it is a lamentable consideration that those who have engaged to be the mutual comfort and support of each other, through life, should render the rugged path still more difficult by their mutual contentions and animosities.

It is the part of a husband to protect his wife from every injury and insult; to be at once a father and a guardian to her; and, so far

from ill-treating her himself, he ought to be particularly watchful that she be not ill used by others: the tenderer sex have a natural claim to the protection of the more robust. Indeed it would appear that one reason for Providence bestowing superior strength on the man, was for the defence and protection of the woman.

On the other hand women should be grateful for this protection; and, in the emphatical words of St. Paul, wives should learn to be 'obedient to their husbands in all things.'

Such duty as the subject owes the prince,
Ev'n such a woman oweth to her husband:
And when she's froward, peevish, sullen,
sour,
What is she but a foul contending rebel,
And graceless traitor to her loving lord?

SHAKESPEARE.

It is a very unfortunate circumstance when persons of opposite sentiments happen to be united in wedlock: but, even in this case, people of sense and humanity will learn to bear with the failings of each other, considering that much allowance is to be made for their own faults. They will endeavour to make the lot which has befallen them more supportable than it otherwise would be; and, in time, by the constant wish to please, they may even conciliate the affections of each other, and mutual happiness may arise where it is least expected.

In general, however, a coincidence of temper and a purity of manners, added to a sacred regard to religious duties, are the greatest security for happiness in the married state. Beautiful are the lines of the poet:

Two kindest souls alone should meet,
'Tis friendship makes their bondage sweet,
And feeds their mutual loves:
Bright Venus, on her rolling throne,
Is drawn by gentlest birds alone,
And Cupid yoke the doves.

ROBERT WILKINSON, JAMES LINCOLN, AND THOMAS MILKSOP,

EXECUTED FOR MURDERING A CHELSEA PENSIONER.

THESE offenders were tried for a murder, which arose from the following circumstance :

Having agreed to commit a robbery together, they stopped a gentleman's coach on the road to Kensington, and, having robbed him of a sum of money, ran off; and soon afterwards meeting a Chelsea pensioner, who had a gun in his hand, they ordered him to deliver it; but the man refusing to do it, Wilkinson stabbed him repeatedly through the back with the hanger; and, when they saw the man was dead, they hastily decamped, committed some robberies on coaches on the road, and then went to London.

On the following day they were apprehended, and committed to prison; and, being soon afterwards brought to their trial at the Old Bailey, they were convicted, and received sentence of death.

It will be now proper to give such an account of these offenders as we have been able to collect:—Robert Wilkinson was the son of poor parents in St. Giles's, and, having missed the advantages of education, became an associate of coachmen, carmen, and others, the lowest of the people. At length he grew to be a dexterous boxer, and frequented Hoxley-in-the-Hole, and other blackguard places in the neighbourhood of London.

After this he commenced footpad, and committed a great variety of robberies, attended with many circumstances of cruelty. Frequently did he knock men down with bludgeons; and, when he had robbed women, it was a common practice with him to strip them naked, bind them to trees, and

leave them in that calamitous situation.

He continued this way of life alone for some years, and then connected himself with the other villains whose names are mentioned in this narrative.

James Lincoln was likewise born of mean parents, nor was any more care taken of his education than of Wilkinson's. For some time he served the hackney coachmen and carmen, and afterwards committed an immense number of footpad robberies on the roads near London; and so frequent were his depredations of this kind, that honest men were afraid to pass alone about their lawful business.

He had been so successful in his adventures, and had so often escaped detection, that he grew so hardened as to watch four nights at the end of Queen Street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, to rob the Duke of Newcastle of his george, though he knew that his grace had always a number of servants in his train.

Being disappointed of this booty, he went on foot to Hyde Park, where he robbed a gentleman in his carriage, and eluded all pursuit. The money he acquired by his robberies was spent in the most extravagant manner; and, at length, he became acquainted with the other subjects of this narrative, and was concerned in the crime which ended in their mutual ruin.

Thomas Milkspop was a native of London, and was bound apprentice to a vintner, in which station he became familiar to some scenes of irregularity that had a natural tendency to corrupt his morals. When the term of his apprenticeship was

expired, he attached himself to some abandoned women, and got connected with an infamous gang of housebreakers and other thieves, who committed numberless depredations on the public.

Milksop having, by one of his night-robberies, acquired a considerable sum of money, bought a horse, and rode out in the character of a highwayman; but, not meeting any success in this way; he returned to his former practices, and then engaged with a gang, of which Wilkinson and Lincoln were two, and was concerned in a great number of other facts, besides that which brought him to a fatal end.

The behaviour of these malefactors under sentence of death was rather hardened. They had been guilty of a great number of offences, for which they did not appear to have a proper concern. Such was the conduct of Wilkinson, that the Ordinary of Newgate refused to administer the sacrament to him; on which he said, if he was not allowed to go to heaven with others,

he would find the way alone. Lincoln professed himself a Roman Catholic; and Milksop, among his other offences, particularly lamented the committing a rape on a poor woman, whom he robbed near Caen Wood, between Hampstead and Highgate.

These offenders suffered death at Tyburn on the 24th of September, 1722.

There is nothing so remarkable in the case of these criminals as the ill consequences resulting from a want of education, and the being witness to scenes of debauchery. The former was the case of Wilkinson and Lincoln, and the latter of Milksop. From their fate, then, let parents, in whatever sphere of life, be taught to give their children as good an education as is in their power; and be particularly careful not to place them in situations liable to corrupt their morals. It is one of the most excellent parts of the most excellent prayer in the world, 'Lead us not into temptation.'

CHRISTOPHER LAYER, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

HERE we again find a hidden spark in the hot-bed of rebellion, shooting out of its expiring embers. This man, like all rebels, was a mere enthusiast, plotting deep mischief, but, like Colonel Despard, hereafter named, without a shadow of possibility to carry his wickedness into effect.

Mr. Layer was born of very respectable parents, and received a very liberal education, which being completed at the university, he was entered a student of the honourable society of the Inner Temple. After the customary time he was called to the bar, entered on the profession of a counsellor at law, and had

so much practice, that he seemed to be in the high road of making a large fortune.

Francis Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, had been disabled from holding his preferments in the church by an act of parliament passed in the year 1722, and was banished from England for life for his treasonable practices; and, about this period, several other persons were concerned in similar designs, among whom Counsellor Layer was one of the most distinguished.

This infatuated man made a journey to Rome, where he held several conferences with the Pretender, to

whom he promised that he would effect so secret a revolution in England, that no person in authority should be apprized of the scheme till it had actually taken place.

Impressed with the idea that it was possible to carry his scheme into execution, he came to England with a determination to effect it. His plan was, to hire an assassin to murder the king, on his return from Kensington; and, this being done, the other parties engaged in the plot were to seize the guards; and the Prince of Wales and his children and the great officers of state were to be seized and confined during the confusion that such an event would naturally produce.

Among others concerned in this strange scheme was Lord Grey, an ancient nobleman of the Roman Catholic religion, who died a prisoner in the Tower, before the necessary legal proceedings against him could take place.

Mr. Laver having settled a correspondence with several Roman Catholics, Nonjurors, and other persons disaffected to the government, he engaged a small number of disbanded soldiers, who were to be the principal actors in the intended tragedy. The counsellor met these soldiers at a public house at Stratford, in Essex, where he gave them the necessary instructions for seizing the king on his return from the palace, and even fixed on the day when the plan was to be carried into execution.

Some of the people of the public house, having overheard the conversation, spoke of it publicly in the neighbourhood; and some other circumstances of suspicion arising, Mr. Laver was taken into custody by one of the king's messengers, in consequence of a warrant from the *secretary of state*.

At this time Mr. Laver had two

women in keeping—one in Southampton Buildings, and the other in Queen Street, to both of whom he had given intimations of the scheme he had in hand. The lodgings of these women being searched, such a number of treasonable papers were found, that the intentions of the counsellor appeared evident. When he was apprized that his papers were seized, and the women bound to give evidence against him, he dispatched a messenger to the secretary of state, informing him that he would make a discovery of all he knew, if he might be permitted the use of pen, ink, and paper. This requisition was instantly complied with, and it was the prevailing opinion that he would have been admitted an evidence against his accomplices, if he had made the promised discovery; but it will appear that he had no such intention.

Behind the house of the messenger in which he was confined there was a yard which communicated with the yard of a public house adjoining, and Mr. Laver thought, if he could get from his confinement, it would be no difficult matter to escape through the tap-room of the alehouse, where it was not probable that he should be known.

Having digested his plan, he cut the blankets of his bed into pieces, and tied them together, and, in the dusk of the evening, dropped from his window; but, falling on a bottle-rack in the yard, he upset it, and the noise occasioned by the breaking of the bottles was such that the family was alarmed; but Laver escaped during the confusion occasioned by this incident.

Almost distracted by the loss of his prisoner, the messenger went in search of him, and, finding that he had taken a boat at the Horse-ferry, Westminster, he crossed the water after him, pursued him through St.

George's Fields, and overtook him him at Newington Butts. Having brought him back to his house, and guarded him properly for that night, he was examined by the secretary of state on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

The king and council now determined that no time should be lost in bringing Laver to a trial; wherefore a writ was issued from the Crown Office, directed to the sheriff of Essex, commanding him to impanel a grand jury, to inquire into such bills as should be presented against the prisoner: in consequence of which the jury met at Rumpford, and found a bill against him for high treason; and this bill was returnable into the Court of King's Bench.

Soon after the bill was found, the trial came on before Sir John Pratt, Lord Chief Justice, and the other judges of that court. Mr. Laver had two counsellors to plead for him, and they urged every possible argument that could be thought of in his behalf; contesting every minute circumstance with the counsel for the crown, during a trial that lasted sixteen hours; but at length the jury found the prisoner guilty, after having been out of court about an hour.

When the prisoner was brought up to receive sentence, his counsel made another effort in his behalf, by urging the informality of some of the legal proceedings against him; but their arguments being thought insufficient, the sentence ordained by the law was passed on him.

As he had some important affairs to settle, from the nature of his profession, the Court did not order his execution till more than two months after he had been condemned; and the king repeatedly reprieved him, to prevent his clients being sufferers

by his affairs being left in a state of confusion.

After conviction, Mr. Laver was committed to the Tower, and at length the sheriffs of London and Middlesex received a warrant to execute the sentence of the law; in consequence of which he was drawn on a sledge to Tyburn, dressed in a suit of black, full trimmed, and a tie-wig.

At the place of execution he was assisted in his devotions by a Non-juring clergyman; and, when these were ended, he spoke to the surrounding multitude, declaring that he deemed King James (so he called the Pretender) his lawful sovereign. He said that King George was an usurper, and damnation would be the fate of those who supported his government. He insisted that the nation would never be in a state of peace till the Pretender was restored; and therefore advised the people to take up arms in his behalf. He professed himself willing to die for the cause; and expressed great hopes that Providence would effectually support the right heir to the throne on some future occasion, though himself had failed of being the happy instrument of placing him thereon.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 15th of March, 1723, and, his body being quartered, his head was placed over Temple Bar.

Mr. Laver is said to have been a man of sense, and, from his education and profession, we may presume that he was a man of learning; yet his conduct was such as, one would imagine, no person above the level of an idiot could have been guilty of. The scheme he undertook was absurd in the highest degree; and his folly in revealing his sentiments to the women whom he kept was as egregious as his guilt was glaring.

Those who preach up the nonsense of a divine indefeasible right inherent in kings may possibly admire the madness by which this man was inspired: but Englishmen ought to be thankful that their sovereigns can govern only in conformity to the laws; laws more perfect than those which human wisdom has yet framed in any other country under

Heaven. We cannot conclude this account more properly than in the words of the poet :

Remember, O my friends, the laws, the rights,

The generous plan of power delivered down,
From age to age, by your renowned fore-
fathers :

**O, let it never perish in your hands ;
But piously transmit it to your children !**

WILLIAM BURK,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

WILLIAM BURKE was born in the parish of St. Catherine's, near the Tower of London. His temper, it was alleged, was bad when a boy; but which of us are not early wayward, until precept and correction teach us better? But it was also admitted that the mother, by ill-judged fondness and indulgence, made it much worse.

Having reached the eleventh year of his age, he was guilty of some faults that required severe chastisement, which having received, he ran away from school, and went to the water-side, inquiring for a station on board a ship. A man, observing his inclination, took him down to the Nore, and put him on board the Salisbury man of war.

The mother, learning where her darling boy was gone, followed him on board the ship, and endeavoured to prevail on him to return, but in vain ; for the youth was obstinately bent on a seafaring life.

In about a fortnight the ship sailed for Jamaica, and, during the voyage, had an engagement with a Spanish galleon, which she took, after a bloody and obstinate fight, in which young Burk was wounded. After this they met with another galleon, which they took without the loss of a man; but a woman, the only one on board, having the curiosity to look on the deck, lost

her life by a chain-shot, which severed her head from her body. The common men shared each fifteen pounds prize money on these captures ; but some of the principal officers got sufficient to make them easy for life.

The ship was stationed for three years in the West Indies, during which Burk learned the art of stealing every thing that he could secrete without detection. At Jamaica there was a woman that had been transported from Newgate some years before ; but, having married a planter, who soon died, she was left in affluent circumstances, and took a tavern. Wanting a white servant, she prevailed on the captain to let William attend her customers.

The boy was pleased with his new situation, and might have continued in it as long as he was on the island, but he could not refrain from defrauding his mistress; but she, who had been herself a thief, soon detected him. Hereupon he fell on his knees, and begged pardon, which was granted; but he was ordered to depart the house immediately.

Alarmed at the danger from which he had escaped, he seems to have formed a temporary resolution to live honestly in future, and, with that view, shipped himself for Maryland, where a merchant would have

employed him, but the captain he sailed with would not permit him to accept the offer. Hence he made a voyage to the coast of Guinea, where he had a very narrow escape of being murdered by the natives, who killed several of his ship-mates.

On the return of his ship from Guinea to England, the weather was so bad that they were five months on their voyage to the port of Bristol, during which they suffered innumerable hardships. Their provisions were so reduced, that they were almost famished, the allowance of each man for the whole day being not so much as he could eat at two mouthfuls; and at length they were obliged to fast five days successively.

However, they reached the port in safety; and, notwithstanding the miseries they had endured, the captain resolved on another voyage to Guinea, in which Burk accompanied him. Having purchased a number of slaves, they set sail for the West India Islands; but, during the voyage, the negroes concerted a scheme to make themselves masters of the ship, and would have probably carried it into execution, but that one of their associates betrayed them; in consequence of which they were more strictly confined than they had hitherto been.

Burk sailed from the West Indies to England, where he entered on board a man of war, and sailed up the Baltic, and afterwards to Archangel, to the north of Russia, where his sufferings, from the extremity of the cold and other circumstances, were so severe, that on his return to England he determined to abandon the life of a sailor.

Being now quite out of all honest methods of getting his bread, he took to robbing passengers in and near Stepney; but he continued his

depredations on the public only for a short time, being apprehended for committing the fourth robbery.

He was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in February, 1723, for robbing William Fitzer on the highway; and again, on the same day, for robbing James Westwood; and, being found guilty on both indictments, he received sentence of death.

There was something remarkably cruel in the conduct of this malefactor, for he carried a hedge-bill with him to terrify the persons he stopped; and one old man hesitating to comply with his demand, he cut him so that he fell to the ground.

After conviction he became sensible of the enormity of his crimes, received the sacrament with great devotion, and declared that, if he obtained mercy from God, it must be through the merits of Jesus Christ.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of April, 1723, in the twenty-third year of his age.

The subject of this biography, though born of parents so poor that they were glad to get him into a charity school, yet had a fair chance of becoming an useful member of society. Little doubt can be entertained but that the fault of mothers, by a too great and too long indulgence to their children, which they call kindness, was the primary cause which led this man to his wretched fate. Some unreflecting women, by mistimed fondness, would have their children, while they should be in search of an honest livelihood, still at home; or, to use the vulgar expression, 'still within the length of their apron-strings.' It is rare, indeed, to find a great boy, pampered by the mother, possessing the rare qualities of a good boy. Indulgence to a

youth at home unnerves him when abroad, and, subject to no control, he becomes insolent, weak, and contemptible to strangers.

Happy the child whose younger years
Receive instruction well;
Who hates the sinner's path, and fears
The road that leads to hell.

When we devote our youth to God,
'Tis pleasing in his eyes;
A flow'r, when offer'd in the bud,
Is no vain sacrifice.

'Tis easier work, if we begin
To fear the Lord betimes;
While sinners that grow old in sin
Are harden'd in their crimes.

DR. WATTS.

ALEXANDER DAY, ALIAS MARMADUKE DAVENPORT, Esq.

A SHARPER.

THE mode of plunder practised by this villain at the time of committing his depredations was not common; but now the great metropolis of our country abounds with such insidious robbers. This kind of thieving, in modern times, is cyledped SWINDLING,* and the latter part of our pages will adduce instances of the tricks of sharpers, passing almost credibility. The fellow now before us was, however, circumstances considered, an adept, and, like our modern swindlers, had a fictitious name, an accomplice, sometimes acting as his footman, a hired house, and borrowed carriage.

The great qualifications, or leading and indispensable attributes, of a sharper or swindler, are, to possess a genteel exterior, a demeanour apparently artless, and a good address.

Among the various classes of sharpers may be reckoned those who obtain licenses to become pawnbrokers, and bring disgrace upon the reputable part of the trade by every species of fraud which can add to the distresses of those who are compelled to raise money in this way; for which purpose there are abundance of opportunities. Swindling pawnbrokers of this class are uniformly receivers of stolen goods; and, under the cover of their license, do much mischief to the public.

The evil arising from them might, in a great measure, be prevented by placing the power of granting licenses in a general board of police; and rendering it necessary for all persons to produce a certificate of character before they can obtain such license, and also to enter into recognizance for good behaviour.

Also sharpers who obtain licenses to be hawkers and pedlars; under the cover of which every species of villainy is practised upon the country people, as well as upon the unwary in the metropolis, and all the great towns in the kingdom. The artifices by which they succeed are various, as for example, by fraudulent raffles, where plated goods are exhibited as silver, and where the chances are exceedingly against the adventurers; by selling and uttering base money, and frequently forged bank notes, which make one of the most profitable branches of their trade; by dealing in smuggled goods, thereby promoting the sale of articles injurious to the revenue, besides cheating the ignorant with regard to their value; by receiving stolen goods, to be disposed of in the country, by which discoveries are prevented, and assistance afforded to common thieves and stationary receivers; by purchasing stolen horses in one part of the country and disposing of them in another,

* This word is derived from the German, in which language it most forcibly conveys the idea of a man practising every species of deceit, to plunder the unwary.

in the course of their journeys; in accomplishing which, so as to elude detection, they have great opportunities, by gambling with E-O tables at fairs and horse-races.

A number of other devices might be pointed out, which render this class of men great nuisances in society, and show the necessity of either suppressing them totally (for, in fact, they are of little use to the public), or of limiting the licenses only to men of good character; to be granted by a general board of police, under whose control they should be placed, while they enter at the same time into a recognizance in a certain sum, with one surety for good behaviour; by which the honest part would be retained, to the exclusion of the fraudulent.

Also sharpers known by the name of *duffers*, who go about from house to house, and attend public houses, fairs, and fairs, pretending to sell smuggled goods, such as India handkerchiefs, waistcoat patterns, muslins, &c. By offering their goods for sale, they are enabled to discover the proper objects which may be successfully practised upon in various ways; and, if they do not succeed in promoting some gambling scheme, by which the party is plundered of his money, they seldom fail passing forged country bank notes, or base coin, in the course of their dealings.

In London a number of female sharpers also infest public places. They dress elegantly, personate women of fashion, attend masquerades, and even go to Court. These, from their effrontery, actually get into the circle, where their wits and hands are employed in obtaining diamonds, and whatever other articles of value, capable of being concealed, are found to be most accessible.

The wife of a well-known sharp-

er is said to have appeared at Court, dressed in a style of peculiar elegance; while the sharper himself is supposed to have gone in the dress of a clergyman. According to the information of a noted receiver, they pilfered to the value of 1700*l.* on the king's birth day, 1795, without discovery or suspicion.

Houses are kept where female cheats dress and undress for public places. Those sharpers generally attend all masquerades, in different characters, where they seldom fail to get clear off with a considerable booty.

The first deception which we find played off by Alexander Day was to take an elegant house in Queens-square, and then to send his pretended footman to a livery stable, to inquire the price of a pair of horses, which he himself afterwards agreed to purchase, and then desired the stable-keeper to recommend him a coachman, a man rather lusty, as he had a suit of livery clothes of a large size by him.

The man was accordingly recommended; but, when the livery was tried on, Day observed, that, as they did not fit him, he would send into the country for his own coachman; but this objection was obviated by the footman, who saying that the clothes would fit, with a small alteration, the squire consented to hire the man.

When the stable-keeper saw the coachman he had recommended, he inquired to what places he had driven his new master; and, being informed to the Duke of Montague's, and other persons of rank, he seemed satisfied, though he had begun to form ideas unfavourable to his new customer.

Mr. Day, having kept his coach and horses something more than a week, gave orders to be driven to

a coffee-house in Red Lion Square, where he drank half a pint of wine at the bar, and asked if some gentlemen were come, whom he expected to supper. Being answered in the negative, he went out at the back door without paying for his wine, and said he would return in a few minutes.

The coachman waited a long time: but, his master not coming back, he drove to the stable-keeper's, who seemed glad to have recovered his property out of such dangerous hands.

It seems that Day made no small use of this coach while it was in his possession. He drove to the shop of a lace-merchant, named Gravestock, and asked for some Spanish point; but, the dealer having none of that kind by him, the 'squire ordered fifty-five pounds' worth of gold lace to be sent to his house in Queen Square. When Gravestock's servant carried the lace, Day desired him to tell his master to call, as he was in want of lace for some rich liveries, but he must speak with his tailor before he could ascertain the quantity wanted. Mr. Gravestock attended his new customer, who gave him so large an order for lace, that, if he had executed it, he must have been a very considerable loser, and the 'squire's liveries would have been gayer than those of any nobleman in London: however, on the following day, he carried some lace of the sort he had left before; nor did he forget to take his bill with him; but the person who should have paid it had decamped.

The next trick practised by our adventurer was as follows: he went to the house of Mr. Markham, a goldsmith, and ordered a gold equipage worth 50*l.*, Markham carried home the equipage, and had the *honour* to drink tea with the sup-

posed Mr. Davenport, who ordered other curious articles; among the rest, a chain of gold for his squirrel.

Mr. Markham observing that the squirrel wore a silver chain, which he had sold to a lady not long before, began to suspect his new customer; and, waiting on the lady, inquired if she knew Marmaduke Davenport, Esq. She answered in the negative; on which Markham mentioned the circumstance that had arisen, and described the person of the defrauder. The lady now recollected him, and said that his name was Alexander Day, and that he had cheated her of property to a considerable amount. In consequence of this information, Markham arrested the sharper, and recovered his property.

On another occasion, Day went in his carriage to the shop of a linen-draper, named Schrimshaw, agreed for linen to the amount of 48*l.* and ordered a large quantity to be sent to his house on the following day, when he would pay for the whole. The first parcel was delivered, but the purchaser had decamped when the linen-draper went with the second.

After this he went to the shop of a tea-dealer, named Kenderick, and ordered tea to the amount of 26*l.* The tea was sent in, and the proprietor called for payment, when Day gave him orders for a farther quantity, which he pretended to have forgot before, and told him to call the next morning; when, he should be paid for it by the steward. The honest tea-dealer called the next day, but neither the 'squire nor steward were to be found.

His next adventure was contrived to defraud Mr. Hinchcliffe, a silk-mercier: Day, going to his shop in his absence, left word for him to call at his house to receive a large order. The mercer went, and saw

a carriage at the door; and, being told that the 'squire had company, he waited a short time, during which the servant took care to inform him that Mr. Davenport was the son of a baronet of Yorkshire, and possessed a large fortune in that county.

When he saw the supposed Mr. Davenport, he was told that he wanted some valuable silks, and wished that a quantity might be sent for him, to select such as he approved. Mr. Hinchcliffe said that the choice would be much better made by fixing on the patterns at his shop.

Hereupon Day took the mercer in his coach, and on their way talked of his father, Sir Marmaduke, and of other people of rank; and said he was on the point of marriage with the daughter of Counsellor Ward, and, as he should be under the necessity of furnishing a house in London, he should want mercery goods to a large amount.

When they came to the mercer's shop, Day selected as many damasks, &c. for bed furniture and hangings, as were worth a thousand pounds. It looks as if Hinchcliffe had now some suspicion; for he told him that the ladies were the best judges of such articles, and asked if he had not a lady of his acquaintance, whom he could consult. He readily answered that he had, and mentioned a Lady Davenport as his relation, saying, 'Send the silks to my house, and I will take her opinion of them.'

Mr. Hinchcliffe said he would send them, and permitted him to take with him two pieces of brocade, worth about thirty pounds; but, desirous to know more of his customer before he trusted him with the whole property, he went to Counsellor Ward, and found that his daughter was already married to a gentleman of the name of Daven-

port. Hereupon the mercer went to the house of the supposed 'squire, but he was gone off with what property he had obtained.

It was likewise discovered that our adventurer, having casually met, at a coffee-house, the Mr. Davenport who had married the daughter of Counsellor Ward, had prevailed on him to call him cousin, on the pretence that they must be related, because, as he alleged, their coats of arms were the same.

After a course of fraud, Day was taken into custody in the month of May, 1723, on suspicion of his having robbed the mail; but it proved that he was not the man: however, there were six indictments brought against him for the defrauds.

In his defence he pleaded that his intention was to have paid for the goods he had purchased on credit; and he asserted that he possessed an estate in the county of Durham, which he had mortgaged for 1200*l*. but no credit could be given to his allegations; nor, even if he had possessed such an estate, would it have appeared that he acted on an honest principle.

After a long trial he was convicted, and sentenced to suffer two years' imprisonment in Newgate, to stand twice in the pillory, to pay a fine of 200*l*. and to give security for his good behaviour for two years after the term of his imprisonment should be expired.

As it is one professed design of this publication to guard innocent people against the schemes of the artful and designing, we would earnestly recommend it to people in trade never to give credit to strangers from the speciousness of their appearance, or the plausibility of their behaviour.

The villain who can defraud a coachmaker out of a carriage, or

even raise money to hire one of an elegant appearance, has nothing to do but take genteel lodgings, and put an accomplice or two into livery, and his scheme usually succeeds. The splendid appearance of the supposed master, and the artful puffs of the servants, generally serve to lull suspicion asleep.

When inquiry is made into the character of a person who is supposed to be a man of honour and fortune, the inquirer should consi-

der whether the person who gives him this character is deserving of that of an honest man: for these artful rogues, when they find any person is suspicious of them, have a method of referring to as great rogues as themselves for a character. The tradesman, then, who would not be imposed on, should take characters only from respectable people, who will never deceive him, unless they have been deceived themselves.

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS criminal was born of reputable parents, who gave him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a creditable trade; but, being of a disposition too unsettled to think of business, he enlisted for a soldier, in the hope of being promoted in the army.

After he had served some time, and found himself disappointed in his expectation of preferment, he made interest to obtain his discharge, and then entered into the service of a gentleman, with whom he behaved in a proper manner for a considerable time; but, not being content with his situation, he repaired to London, and again enlisted as a soldier in the foot-guards.

In this station he remained four years, during two of which he was servant to the colonel, who entertained a very good opinion of him; till an incident, which unexpectedly arose, occasioned the crime for which he suffered. Before we relate the particulars, it will be proper to remark, that, at the period of which we are writing, party disputes ran very high, and the soldiers were frequently the subjects of the contempt and derision of the populace.

While Hawksworth was march-

ing, with other soldiers, to relieve the guard in St. James's Park, a man named Ransom, who had a woman in his company, jostled him, and cried, 'What a stir is here about King George's soldiers!' Hawksworth, imagining the woman had incited him to this behaviour, quitted his rank, and gave her a blow on the face. Irritated hereby, Ransom called him a puppy, and demanded the reason of his behaviour to the woman.

The term of reproach enraged Hawksworth to such a degree, that he knocked the other down with his musket, and then the soldiers marched on to relieve the guard. In the mean time the crowd of people gathered round Ransom, and, finding he was much wounded, put him in a chair, and sent him to a surgeon, who examined him, and found his skull fractured to such a degree that there were no hopes of his recovery, and he died in a few hours.

Hereupon a person who had been witness to what passed in the Park went to the Savoy, and, having learnt the name of the offender, caused Hawksworth to be taken into custody, and he was committed to Newgate. Being brought to his trial at the following sessions, the

colonel, whom he had served, gave him an excellent character ; but the facts were so clearly proved, that the jury could not do otherwise than convict him, and judgment of death passed accordingly.

For some time after sentence he flattered himself with the hope of a reprieve ; but, when the warrant for his execution arrived, he seemed to give up all hopes of life, and seriously prepared himself to meet his fate. He solemnly averred that Ransom struck him first, and said he did not recollect the circumstance of leaving his rank to strike the blow that occasioned the death of the other. He declared that he had no malice against the deceased, and therefore thought himself acquitted, in his own mind, of the crime of murder.

However, he behaved in a very contrite manner, and received the sacrament with signs of the sincerest devotion. A few minutes before he was executed, he made a speech to the surrounding multitude, advising them to keep a strict guard over their passions ; he lamented the situation of the common soldiers, who are considered as cowards if they do not resent an injury, and, if they do, are liable to endure legal punishment for the consequences that may arise from such resentment. However, he advised his brethren of the army to submit with patience to the indignities that might be offered, and trust to the goodness of God to recompense their sufferings.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 17th of June, 1723, at the age of twenty-seven years.

Though nothing can justify the crime of which this man was guilty, yet an useful lesson may be learned from his fate. The situation of our common soldiers is sufficiently lamentable, and no person should seek to make their lives more calamitous by insult. The poor fellow who does duty by night and by day, who is subject to all the strictness of military discipline, and liable at any time to be called forth, the mark of a bullet, and all this for less than is sufficient for his support, even on the coarsest food, is certainly an object of our commiseration. We should therefore pity the distressed, and not seek to add misfortune to the miserable.

Although the crime for which Hawksworth suffered is such as ought not to be pardoned, yet the eye of humanity will drop a tear for the fate of a man who thought himself instigated to strike the fatal blow, little considering, at that moment, that it would have proved fatal.

Hence let us learn to guard against the first impulse of passion ; to reflect that reason was given us for the moderation of our passions ; and that the higher considerations of religion ought to be a perpetual restraint on those violent emotions of the mind, which, in numerous instances beside the present, have led to destruction. That man is guilty of an egregious folly, as well as an enormous crime, who will permit the taunting words or aggravating actions of another to tempt him to the commission of murder.

' Hard names at first, and threat'ning words,
That are but noisy breath,
May grow to clubs and naked swords,
To murder and to death.'

CAPTAIN JOHN MASSEY,

EXECUTED FOR PIRACY.

In transcribing the record and particulars of this truly unfortunate man, we had no conception that he

would have appeared among those who suffered the extreme sentence of the law. Indeed, we rather thought

his conduct, making allowance for the critical way in which he was situated, meritorious, rather than really guilty; but, when we find that he actually pleaded guilty to the charge laid against him in the indictment, we are left in wonder at the mysterious ways of Providence.

Captain Massey was the son of a gentleman of fortune, who gave him an excellent education. When young, though somewhat wild and wavering in his mind, yet we find no flagitious conduct imputed to him. He grew weary of home, and thirsted to taste the pleasures of a world in which he was doomed to act an unhappy part. His father procured him a commission in the army; and he served with great credit as lieutenant, under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, during the wars in Flanders, in the reign of Queen Anne.

On his return to England he conducted himself with great decency; but became acquainted with a woman of bad character, to whom he was so much attached, that he would undoubtedly have married her, if his father, who got intelligence of the affair, had not happily broken off the connexion.

After this he went with his regiment to Ireland, where he lived for some time in a dissolute manner; but at length got appointed to the rank of lieutenant and engineer to the Royal African Company, and sailed in one of their ships to direct the building of a fort. The ship being ill supplied with provisions, and those of the worst kind, the sufferings of the crew were inexpressibly great. Every officer on board died, except Massey, and many of the soldiers likewise fell a sacrifice to the scandalous neglect.

Those who lived to get on shore drank so greedily of the fresh water, *that they were thrown into fluxes, which destroyed them in such a*

rapid manner, that only Captain Massey and a very few of his people were left alive. These, being totally unable to build a fort, and seeing no prospect of relief, began to abandon themselves to despair; but at this time a vessel happening to come near the shore, they made signals of distress, on which a boat was sent off to their relief.

They were no sooner on board, than they found the vessel was a pirate; and, distressed as they had been, perhaps too hastily engaged in their lawless plan, or appeared so to do, rather than run the hazard of perishing on shore. Sailing from hence, they took several prizes; and, though the persons made prisoners were not used with cruelty, Mr. Massey had so true a sense of the illegality of the proceedings in which he was concerned, that his mind was perpetually tormented with the idea of the fatal consequences that might ensue.

At length the ship reached Jamaica, when Mr. Massey seized the first opportunity of deserting; and, repairing to the governor, he gave such information, that the crew of the pirate vessel were taken into custody, convicted, and hanged. Massey might have been provided for by the governor, who treated him with singular respect, on account of his services to the public; but he declined his generous offers, through an anxiety to visit his native country.

On his sailing for England the governor gave him recommendatory letters to the lords of the admiralty; but, astonishing as it may seem, instead of being caressed, he was taken into custody, and committed till a session of admiralty was held for his trial, when he pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death.

As his case was remarkable, the public entertained no doubt but

that he would have been pardoned ; however, a warrant was sent for his execution, and he made the most solemn preparation for his approaching fate.

Two clergymen attended him at the place of execution, where he freely acknowledged his sins in general, was remarkably fervent in his devotions, and seemed perfectly resigned to his fatal destiny.

Though the captain pleaded guilty at his trial (for guilty in some mea-

sure he was), yet his joining the pirates was evidently an act of necessity, not of choice ; add to which, his subsequent conduct at Jamaica proved that he took the earliest opportunity to abandon his late companions, and bring them to justice ; a conduct by which he surely merited the thanks of his country, and not the vengeance of the law. We sincerely hope that no future king will, under such circumstances, sign a warrant for execution.



Sarah Priddon stabbing a Gentleman in a Bagnio.

SARAH PRIDDON, ALIAS SALLY SALISBURY,

CONVICTED OF AN ASSAULT IN WHICH MURDER WAS ATTEMPTED.

THERE is no state in human nature so wretched as that of the prostitute. Seduced, abandoned to fate, the wretched female falls a prey to want ; or she must purchase existence at a price degrading, in the last degree, to the mind of sensibility. Subject to the lust and de-

bauchery of every thoughtless blockhead, she becomes hardened in shame. Hence modesty is put to the blush by the obscenity of those, once pure as our own darling daughters. Every public place swarms with this miserable set of beings, so that parents dread to in-

dulge their children with even the sight of a moral stage performance. The unhappy prostitute, heated by drink, acquires false spirits, in order to inveigle men to her purpose; and, in so doing, she too often takes apparent satisfaction in annoying, by looks and gestures, often by indecent words, the virtuous part of the audience. The law, while it assumes the guardianship of youth by suppressing immorality, still permits these wantons to rove, uncontrolled, among the virtuous as well as the profligate. There ought, in public at least, some bounds to be set—some check to the pernicious example. They may surely be restrained, at least to the outward show of decency, when in mixed company.

Yet, says the philanthropist, they demand our pity. They do indeed! The cause, while nature progresses, cannot be removed; but the legislature might do more to regulate the evil than is done in this country. It is by some held a necessary evil, tending, in its utmost extent, even to the benefit of the yet virtuous female; but a mind once formed by precept and good example will ever repel a liberty attempted by a profligate man; they are cowards when reproved by virtuous indignation.

We can only accord our tribute of pity to them, though about to give the effects of prostitution in its greatest extent, by quoting the words of the poet, as applied to the miseries of the unhappy Jane Shore:

'When she was mine, no arm came ever near her;

I thought the gentlest breath of heaven
Too rough to blow upon her.

Now, sad and shelterless, perhaps she wanders,

And the rain drops from some penthouse
On her wretched head, drenches her locks,
And kills her with the cold.'

On the 24th of April, 1723,

Sarah Priddon was indicted at the Old Bailey, for making a violent assault on the Hon. J— F—, and stabbing him with a knife in his left breast, and giving him a wound of which he long languished, with an intent to kill and murder him.

Mrs. Priddon, or rather Salisbury (for that was the name by which she was best known), was a woman of the town, who was well acquainted with the gentleman whom she wounded. It appeared on the trial that Mr. F. having gone to the Three Tuns tavern in Chandos Street, Covent Garden, about midnight, Sally followed him thither soon afterwards. The drawer, after he had waited on Mr. F. went to bed; but at two in the morning he was called up, to draw a pint of Frontinac for Mrs. Salisbury. This he did, and carried it to her with a French roll and a knife. The prisoner was now in company and conversation with Mr. F. and the drawer heard them disputing about an Opera ticket, which he had presented to her sister, and while they were talking, she stabbed him; on which he put his hand to his breast, and said, 'Madam, you have wounded me.'

No sooner had she committed the fact than she appeared sincerely to regret what she had done: she sent for a surgeon, who finding it necessary to extend the wound, that the blood might flow outwardly, she seemed terrified, and, calling out 'O Lord! what are you doing?' fainted away.

On her recovery, she asked Mr. F. how he did; to which he answered, 'Very bad, and worse than you imagine.' She endeavoured to console him in the best manner she could, and, after some time, the parties went away in separate chairs; but not till the wounded gentleman had forgiven

her, and saluted her as a token of that forgiveness.

The counsel for the prisoner endeavoured to prove that she had no intention of wounding him with malice *prepenſe*; and that what she did arose from a sudden start of passion, the consequence of his having given an Opera ticket to her sister, with a view to ingratiate her affections, and debauch her.

The counsel for the Crown ridiculed this idea, and insinuated that a woman of Mrs. Salisbury's character could not be supposed to have any very tender regard for her sister's reputation. They allowed that Mr. F. had readily forgiven her at the time; but insisted that this was a proof of the placability of his temper, and no argument in her favour.

They said that, if the gentleman had died of the wound, she would have been deemed guilty of murder, as she had not received the least provocation to commit the crime; and that the event made no difference with respect to the malignity of her intentions.

The jury, having considered the circumstances of the case, found her guilty of assaulting and wounding Mr. F. but acquitted her of doing it with an intent to kill and murder him. In consequence hereof she was sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, to be imprisoned for a year, and then to find security for her good behaviour for two years; but, when she had suffered about nine months' imprisonment, she died in Newgate, and was buried in the church-yard of St. Andrew, Holborn.

The case of the unhappy woman who has been the subject of this narrative will afford matter for serious reflection. She had been acquainted with the gentleman whom

she stabbed, and there is nothing ungenerous in supposing that their acquaintance was of the criminal kind.

It was insinuated by the counsel for the Crown that it could not be supposed that Mrs. Salisbury had any regard for the reputation of her sister. But why so? It is to be presumed that a woman of any sensibility, who had been unhappy enough to forfeit her own character, should become the more anxious to preserve that of one to whom she was bound by the ties of consanguinity. It does not follow that, because a woman has failed in the great article of personal chastity, she must therefore be deficient in every other virtue that can adorn the female mind.

Too frequently, indeed, it happens that women in this predicament become dead to all those finer feelings that do honour to their sex in particular, and to humanity in general. But then what shall be said of those men who reduce them to a situation so calamitous? Will the sudden impulse of passion be pleaded in mitigation of a crime which, in its consequences, almost always detaches a woman from the company of the virtuous of her own sex, and renders her, in a great degree, an outcast of society?

If there be any truth in the common opinion that women in general are weaker than men, it follows, of course, that the wisest ought to be the most virtuous; and that the man who seduces a woman is more criminal in that act than she is in yielding to the seduction: yet so ungenerous is the vulgar opinion, that a woman for ever loses her character in consequence of an offence which is hardly deemed criminal in a man. Agreeable hereto are the sentiments of the poet:

—' Man, the lawless libertine, may rove,
Free and unquestion'd, through the wilds
of love :

But woman—sense and nature's easy fool—
If poor, weak, woman swerve from virtue's
rule—

If strongly, charm'd, she tempt the flowery
way,

And in the softer paths of pleasure stray—
Ruin ensues, remorse and endless shame,
And one false step entirely damns her fame:
In vain with tears the loss she may deplore,
In vain look back to what she was before;
She sets, like stars that fall, to rise no more !'

It is no credit to the humanity of

the age that this should be the fact ;
but, as it is the fact, it should teach
young women to be always on their
guard for the protection of their
chastity ; remembering that if *that*
be once lost, it can never be reco-
vered ; that it is a jewel of the
highest price ; and that, in most in-
stances, the contamination of the
mind follows the violation of the
person, and must, of consequence,
produce a long series of wretched-
ness.

THOMAS ATHOE, THE ELDER, AND THOMAS ATHOE, THE YOUNGER,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS murder was attended with shocking barbarity ; and, when we have to relate that it was committed by father and son, the relation becomes additionally painful. A solitary murder is sufficiently detestable ; but when it is proved that a parent advises, aids, and abets his child in the horrid purpose, we are shocked at the extent of human depravity.

The elder Athoe was a native of Carew, in Pembrokeshire, where he rented above a hundred pounds per annum, and had lived in such a respectable way, that in the year 1721 he was chosen mayor of Tenby, and his son a bailiff of the same corporation ; though they did not live in this place, but at Manerbeer, two miles distant from it.

George Merchant (of whose murder they were convicted) and his brother Thomas were nephews, by the mother's side, to the elder Athoe, their father having married his sister.

On the 23d of November, 1722, a fair was held at Tenby, where the Athoes went to sell cattle, and there met with George Merchant and his brother Thomas. A quarrel arose

between the younger Athoe and George Merchant, on an old grudge, respecting their right to part of an estate ; when a battle ensued, in which George had the advantage, and beat young Athoe. The elder Athoe, taking the advice of an attorney on what had passed, would have persuaded him to bring an action ; to which he replied, ' No, no, we won't take the law ; but we'll pay them in their own coin.'

Late in the evening, after the fair was ended, the Merchants left the town ; but the Athoes, going to the inn, inquired of the ostler which way they went. He gave them the best information in his power, on which they immediately mounted, and followed them. The brothers stopped on the road, at a place called Holloway's Water, to let their horses drink. In the mean time they heard the footsteps of other horses behind them, and, turning about, saw two men riding at a small distance. It was too dark for them to know the parties, but they presently heard the voice of old Athoe.

Knowing that he had sworn revenge, and dreading the consequence

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that would probably ensue, they endeavoured to conceal themselves behind a bridge, but they were discovered by the splashing of their horses' feet in the water. The Athoes riding up with large sticks, the younger said to George Merchant, 'I owe thee a pass, and now thou shalt have it;' and immediately knocked him off his horse.

In the interim, old Athoe attacked Thomas Merchant, and beat him likewise from his horse, calling out, at the same time, 'Kill the dogs! kill the dogs!' The brothers begged hard for their lives, but they pleaded to those who had no idea of pity. The elder Athoe seized Thomas Merchant in the tenderest part, and squeezed him in so violent a manner that human nature could not long have sustained the pain; while the younger Athoe treated George Merchant in a similar way, and carried his revenge to such a length that it is not possible to relate the horrid deed with decency. When he had completed his execrable purpose, he called out to his father, saying, 'Now I have done George Merchant's business.'

A great effusion of blood was the consequence of this barbarity; but his savage revenge was not yet gladdened: seizing George Merchant by the nose with his teeth, he bit it off, and then strangled him, by tying a handkerchief tight round his neck.

This done, the murderers quitted the spot; but some persons coming by took the Merchants to an adjacent house, and sent for a surgeon, who dressed the wound of Thomas, but found that George was dead. The surgeon declared that the blows he had received were sufficient to have killed six or seven men; for he had two bruises on his breast, three large ones on his head, and twenty-two on his back.

The elder Athoe was taken into custody on the following day, but the son had fled to Ireland: however, those who had been concerned in favoring his escape were glad to use their endeavours to get him back again. The murder was committed in Pembrokeshire, but the prisoners were removed by a writ of Habeas Corpus to Hereford, and, on the 19th March, 1723, they were indicted for the murder.

On the trial, the principal evidence against them was the surviving brother, who was even then so weak as to be indulged to sit down while he gave his evidence; but the jury, though satisfied of the commission of the murder, entertained a doubt whether the prisoners could be legally tried in any county but that in which the crime was committed; on which they brought in a special verdict: whereupon the case was referred to the determination of the twelve judges; and the prisoners, being brought up to London, were committed to the King's Bench prison, where they remained till the 22d of June, 1723, and were then taken to the Court of King's Bench, in Westminster Hall; when, a motion being made by counsel in arrest of judgment, the Court directed that an act of the 33d of Henry VIII. should be read, in which is a clause, ordaining that 'All murders and robberies committed in, on, or about the borders of Wales, shall be triable in any county of England where the criminal shall be taken; and that the Court of King's Bench shall have power to move, by writ of Habeas Corpus, any prisoner confined in Wales to the next county of England, to be tried.'

In consequence hereof, the Court proceeded to give judgment, and the prisoners were remanded to the King's Bench prison.

Between this and the time of their execution they were visited by Mr. Dyche, the chaplain of the prison, and by several other divines. They continued to flatter themselves with the hope of life till the warrant came down for their execution, and endeavoured to extenuate the crime by a variety of frivolous pretences, respecting disputes between them and the deceased.

On the 25th of June they received the sacrament with great devotion, and did the same again on the morning of their execution. Their behaviour at the place of death is thus recorded by the minister who attended them: "On Friday, the 5th of July, 1723, about eleven o'clock in the morning, they were conveyed in a cart to the place of execution. When they came to the fatal tree, they behaved themselves in a very decent manner, embracing each other with the utmost tenderness and affection; and, indeed, the son's hiding his face, bedewed with tears, in his father's bosom, was, notwithstanding the barbarous action they had committed, a very moving spectacle. They begged of all good people to take warning by their ignominious death; and were turned off, crying, 'Lord, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us!' The bodies

were brought from the place of execution in two hearses to the Falconian, in Southwark, in order to be buried in St. George's church-yard."

They suffered at a place called St. Thomas's Watering, a little below Kent Street, in Surrey, the father being fifty-eight years old, and the son within one day of twenty-four, at the time of their deaths.

We shall seldom hear of a murder so barbarous, so deliberate, so unprovoked, as this in question. Little, surely, need be said to deter any of our readers from the slightest idea of being guilty of a crime of so atrocious a nature; nor need we add any thing to our former remark on so heinous an offence as that of imbruing our hands in the blood of our fellow-creatures. Be it sufficient to remark that there is a just God who judgeth the earth, and that all our most secret actions are open to his sight. From his view our most careful precautions cannot screen, nor can the darkness of night cover us. Let us then learn so to conduct ourselves as not to blush to stand in the presence of our God. Happy the man who, fortified by religious considerations, can arrive at this degree of Christian perfection!

WILLIAM DUCE, JAMES BUTLER, — WADE, AND — MEADS,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

THE reader has doubtless observed that this work shows that there are different grades of thieves. The boy, when abandoned to profligacy, commences his career by picking pockets, and a single handkerchief is then the extent of his hopes. Hardening with his years, he advances a step in villainy, and becomes a footpad, the most cruel

description of robbers. If success should, for a while, attend his enormities, he proceeds to steal a horse, and, throwing away the footpad's bludgeon or knife, he appears mounted on the highway, armed with a brace of pistols. Arrived now at the highest rank of thievery, he despises the lower posts, and styles himself a gentleman highway-

man. To do honour to his post, he scorns to use that violence, where there is no show of resistance, which, as a footpad, he exercised often through mere wantonness. His fame, if industrious, however, sooner reaches the knowledge of the myrmidons of justice than if he had grovelled as a foot-robber; and his career is happily thus sooner at an end.

Duce was a native of Wolverhampton, and by trade a buckle-maker, which he followed some time in London; but, being imprisoned in Newgate for debt, he there made connexions which greatly tended to the corruption of his manners.

He was no sooner at large than he commenced footpad, and, in company with another man, robbed a gentleman, in Chelsea Fields, of four guineas: after this he connected himself with John Dyer and James Butler, in concert with whom he committed a variety of robberies. Their plan was to go out together, but one only to attack the party intended to be robbed; giving a signal for his accomplices to come up if any resistance should be made.

After committing a variety of robberies in the neighbourhood of London, they joined in a scheme, with four other villains, to rob Lady Chadleigh, between Hyde Park Corner and Kensington; but her ladyship's footman shot one of the gang, named Rice, through the head, which prevented the intended depredation.

Their robberies had now been so numerous that the neighbourhood of London became unsafe for them; wherefore they went on the Portsmouth road, where they committed a variety of robberies, and even proceeded to the perpetration of murder, with a view to prevent detection.

Meeting Mr. Bunch, a farmer,

near a wood on the road side, they robbed him of his money, and then, dragging him into the wood, they stripped him, and Duce firing at him with a pistol, the ball lodged in his mouth.

They now imagined the man was dead, and were about to depart, when Mr. Bunch turning, Butler loaded another pistol, in order to dispatch him; on which he begged that they would yet spare his life: but, finding that they entertained no sentiments of compassion, he exerted all his strength, and, springing on his legs, ran off, and, alarming the inhabitants of an adjacent village, immediate pursuit was made after the villains, all of whom were apprehended except Duce, who escaped, and got to London.

Darker, Wade, and Meads, three of the gang, were hanged at Winchester; but Butler was sent to take his trial at the Old Bailey, for robberies committed in the county of Middlesex.

James Butler was the son of reputable parents, of the parish of St. Ann, Soho, and apprenticed to a silversmith; but, being of an ungovernable disposition, his parents were obliged to send him to sea. After making several voyages, as an apprentice to the captain, he ran from the ship at Boston, in New England, and went to New York, where he entered on board another ship, from which he likewise ran away, and embarked in a third vessel, bound to Martinico. This he also quitted, on a dispute with the captain, and then sailed to Jamaica, where he was impressed into the royal navy, and served under the celebrated Admiral Vernon.

On his return to England he married a girl of Wapping, and, having soon spent the little money he brought home with him, he engaged with the gang we have men-

tioned, with whom he was likewise concerned in several other robberies.

These appear to have been very desperate villains. On the road to Gravesend they stopped four gentlemen, who refusing to be robbed, Meads, one of those hanged at Winchester, shot a servant, who attended them, in the breast, so that he died in a few days. Disappointed of their booty in this attempt, their passions were so irritated, that, meeting a gentleman on horseback, they fired, and wounded him in the head and breast, and the next day he expired.

They committed other robberies, attended with circumstances of cruelty, but it will be now proper to mention those for which they suffered. Butler having been acquitted at the Old Bailey of the crime for which he was transmitted from Winchester, he, Duce, and Dyer, immediately renewed their depredations on the road. Meeting Mr. Holmes near Buckingham House, they robbed him of his money, hat, and handkerchief, which laid the foundation of one of the indictments against them.

On the following evening they stopped a hackney-coachman near Hampstead, and robbed him of nine shillings, after the coachman had told them that the words 'stand and deliver' were sufficient to hang a man. Jonathan Wild, being informed of these robberies, caused the offenders to be apprehended at a house kept by Duce's sister.

Dyer being admitted an evidence, Duce and Butler were brought to their trial, when the latter pleaded guilty to both the indictments; and the former, after spending some time in denying the robberies and arraigning the conduct of Jonathan Wild, was found guilty, and both of them received sentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was more resigned and devout than could have been expected from men whose repeated crimes might be supposed to have hardened their hearts; but death appeared to them in all its horrors. Butler was a Roman Catholic, and Duce a Protestant. The latter was urged by the Ordinary to discover the names of some of his old accomplices; but this he refused to do, because they had left their practices, and lived honest lives.

A few minutes before they were launched into eternity Butler declared that the circumstances of cruelty with which their crimes had been attended gave him more pain than the thoughts of death; and Duce acknowledged the enormity of his offences, and begged the forgiveness of all whom he had injured.

They were hanged at Tyburn on the 14th of August, 1723.

A few short reflections naturally occur on the fate of these men. Butler, having been disobedient when a boy, was sent to sea in order to reclaim him. This is a common practice; but we cannot see how it is calculated to answer the designed end: what doctrines of morality or religion can a boy be expected to learn amidst the curses and execrations of sailors? But we believe one great reason why young offenders are sent to sea is, that they may be out of the way of disgracing their parents and relations by their presence.

The cruelties these malefactors perpetrated will hand down their names with infamy to posterity; and ought to impress on the minds of young people the horrid crime of robbery, which may naturally lead to the greater crime of murder. By truth in all our words, and justice and mercy in our actions, we shall

most effectually secure our happiness in this world ; and, by the aid of religion and the mercy of God, may become successful candidates for eternal bliss in that which is to come.

HUMPHRY ANGIER,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY,

Was a native of Ireland, born near Dublin ; but his parents, removing to Cork, put him apprentice to a cooper in that city. He had not been long in this station before his master desired to get rid of him, on account of his untoward disposition. Thus discharged, he lived the life of a vagabond for two years ; and his father, apprehending that he would come to a fatal end, brought him to England, in the eighteenth year of his age.

Still, however, he continued his dissipated course of life, till, having got considerably in debt, he enlisted for a soldier, to avoid being lodged in prison. As this happened in the year 1715, he was sent into Scotland to oppose the rebels ; but, robbing a farmer in that country, he was punished, by receiving five hundred lashes, in consequence of the sentence of a court-martial.

The rebellion ended, Angier came to London, and obtained his discharge. Here he became acquainted with William Duce (see Duce), whose sister he married at an ale-house in the verge of the Fleet.

After this he enlisted a second time, and, the regiment being ordered to Vigo, he took his wife with him. The greater part of the Spaniards having abandoned the place, Angier obtained a considerable sum by plunder. On his return to England he became acquainted with Butler's associates, and was concerned with them in several of their lawless depredations, but refused to have any share in acts of barbarity.

Angier now kept a house of ill fame, which was resorted to by the other thieves ; and one night, after they had been out on one of their exploits, Meads told the following horrid tale : ' We have been out ; and the best fun of all was an engagement with a smock-faced shoemaker, whom we met on the Kentish Road. We asked him how far he was going ; and he said he was just married, and going home to see his relations. After a little more discourse, we persuaded him to turn rather out of the road to look for a bird's nest, which, as soon as he had done, we bound and gagged him, after which we robbed him, and were going away ; but I being in a merry humour, and wanting to have a little diversion, turned about with my pistol, and shot him through the head !'

Bad as Angier was in other respects, he was shocked at this story, told his companions there was no courage in cruelty, and from that time refused to drink with any of them.

After this he kept a house of ill fame near Charing Cross, letting lodgings to thieves, and receiving stolen goods. While in this way of life he went to see an execution at Tyburn, and did not return till four o'clock the next morning ; but, during his absence, an affair happened, which was attended with troublesome consequences. A Dutchwoman, meeting with a gentleman in the streets, conducted him to Angier's house, where he drank so freely that he fell asleep,

and the woman, robbing him of his watch and money, made her escape. The gentleman waking when Angier returned, charged him with the robbery, in consequence of which he was committed to prison, but was afterwards discharged, the grand jury not finding the bill against him. Soon after his wife was indicted for robbing a gentleman of his watch and a guinea, but was fortunate enough to be acquitted for want of evidence.

The following accident happened about the same time:—A woman, named Turner, had drunk so much at Angier's house, that he conducted her up to bed; but, while he was in the room with her, his wife entered in a rage, and, demanding of her how she could presume to keep company with her husband, attacked and beat the woman. William Duce, being in the house, went up to interfere; but the disturbance was by this time so great, that it was necessary to send for a constable.

The officer no sooner arrived than Mrs. Turner charged Angier and his wife with robbing her, on which they were taken into custody and committed; but when they were brought to trial they were acquitted, as there was no proof of any robbery, to the satisfaction of the jury.

Dyer, who was evidence against Duce and Butler, lived at this time with Angier as a waiter; and the master and the man used occasionally to commit footpad robberies together; for which they were several times apprehended, and tried at the Old Bailey, but acquitted, as the prosecutors could not swear to their persons.

Angier's character now grew so notorious, that no person of any reputation would be seen in the

house; and the expenses attending his repeated prosecutions were so great, that he was compelled to decline business.

After this he kept a gin-shop in Short's Gardens, Drury Lane; and this house was frequented by company of the same kind as those he had formerly entertained, particularly Parson Lindsey. Lindsey, having prevailed on a gentleman to go to this house, made him drunk, and then robbed him of several valuable articles; but, procuring himself to be admitted an evidence, charged Angier and his wife with the robbery. They had again the good fortune to escape, the character of Lindsey being at this time so infamous, that the Court and jury paid no regard to any thing he said.

Soon after, however, Mrs. Angier was transported for picking a gentleman's pocket: and her husband was convicted on two capital indictments; the one for robbing Mr. Lewin, the city marshal, near Hornsey, of ten guineas and some silver; and the other for robbing a waggoner near Knightsbridge. On both these trials, Dyer, who was concerned in the robberies, was admitted an evidence against Angier.

After conviction he was visited by numbers of persons, whose pockets had been picked of valuable articles, in the hope of getting some intelligence of the property they had lost; but he said 'he was never guilty of such mean practices as picking of pockets, and all his associates were above it, except one Hugh Kelly, who was transported for robbing a woman of a shroud, which she was carrying home to cover her deceased husband.'

He was executed at Tyburn on the 9th of September, 1723, and, just before he was turned off, ad-

vised young people to be obedient to their parents, as a failure in that important duty was the first step to his destruction.

Angier had a longer course of wickedness than falls to the lot of most offenders; but he was at length cut off; and fell a sacrifice to the rigour of the laws. We find he confessed he had never been happy; nor indeed can any

criminal ever expect to be so: those who fail in their duty entail wretchedness on themselves. The only way to be happy is to be virtuous; while guilt inevitably leads to misery and shame. No person, then, in his senses, can hesitate which path to choose. 'The wise (says Solomon) shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of fools.'

RICHARD PARVIN, EDWARD ELLIOTT, ROBERT KING-SHELL, HENRY MARSHALL, EDWARD PINK, JOHN PINK, & JAMES ANSELL,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER AND DEER-STEALING.

THIS was another gang of daring plunderers, who carried on their depredations with such effrontery, that it was found necessary to enact the law hereafter recited, in order to bring them to condign punishment; and it was not long after it was in force before it took due effect upon them.

Having blacked their faces, they went in the day-time to the parks of the nobility and gentry, whence they repeatedly stole deer, and at length murdered the Bishop of Winchester's keeper, on Waltham Chase; and, from the name of the place, and their blacking their faces, they obtained the name of the *Waltham Blacks*.

The following is the substance of the act of parliament on which they were convicted:—'Any person appearing in any forest, chase, park, &c. or in any high road, open heath, common, or down, with offensive weapons, and having his face blacked or otherwise disguised, or unlawfully and wilfully hunting, wounding, killing, or stealing, any red or fallow deer, or unlawfully robbing any warren, or stealing any fish out of any river or pond, or (whether armed or disguised, or not) breaking down the

head or mound of any fish-pond, whereby the fish may be lost or destroyed; or unlawfully and maliciously killing, maiming, or wounding any cattle, or cutting down, or otherwise destroying, any trees planted in any avenue, or growing in any garden, orchard, or plantation, for ornament, shelter, or profit; or setting fire to any house, barn, or out-house, hovel, cock-mow, or stack of corn, straw, hay, or wood; or maliciously shooting at any person, in any dwelling-house, or other place; or knowingly sending any letter without any name, or signed with a fictitious name, demanding money, venison, or other valuable thing, or forcibly rescuing any person being in custody for any of the offences before mentioned, or procuring any person by gift, or promise of money, or other reward, to join in any such unlawful act, or concealing or succouring such offenders, when, by order of council, &c. required to surrender, shall suffer death.'

The offence of deer-stealing was formerly only a misdemeanor at common law; but the act of parliament above mentioned has been rendered perpetual by a subsequent statute: it therefore behoves people

to be cautious that they do not endanger their lives, while they think they are committing what they may deem an inferior offence. We will now give such particulars as we have been able to obtain respecting the malefactors in question.

Richard Parvin was heretofore the master of a public house in Portsmouth, which he had kept with reputation for a considerable time, till he was imprudent enough to engage with the gang of ruffians who practised the robbing noblemen's and gentlemen's parks through the country. The reader is already apprized that it was the custom of these fellows to go disguised. Now a servant-maid of Parvin's, having left his house during his absence, had repaired to an alehouse in the country; and Parvin calling there, on his return from one of his dishonest depredations, the girl discovered him, in consequence of which he was committed to Winchester gaol by the mayor of Portsmouth, till his removal to London for trial.

Edward Elliott was an apprentice to a tailor at Guildford, and was very young when he engaged with the gang, whose orders he implicitly obeyed, till the following circumstance occasioned his leaving them:—Having met with two countrymen, who refused to enter into the society, they dug holes in the ground, and placed the unhappy men in them, up to their chins; and, had they not been relieved by persons who accidentally saw them, they must have perished. Shocked by this deed, Elliott left them, and for some time served a lady as a footman; but, on the day the keeper was murdered, he casually met them in the fields, and, on their promise that no harm should attend *him, he unhappily consented to bear them company.*

Having provided themselves with pistols, and blacked their faces with gunpowder, they proceeded to their lawless depredations; and, while the rest of the gang were killing of deer, Elliott went in search of a fawn; but, while he was looking for it, the keeper and his assistants came up, and took him into custody. His associates were near enough to see what happened; and, immediately coming to his assistance, a violent affray ensued, in which the keeper was shot by Henry Marshall, so that he died on the spot, and Elliott made his escape; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Guildford.

Robert Kingshell, who was a native of Farnham, in Surrey, was placed by his parents with a shoemaker: but, being too idle to follow his profession, he was guilty of many acts of irregularity before he associated himself with the Waltham Blacks, with whom he afterwards suffered. While he was in bed on the night preceding the fatal murder, one of the gang awaked him by knocking at his window, on which he arose, and went with him to join the rest of the deer-stealers.

Henry Marshall was a man distinguished for his strength and agility: we have no account of the place of his birth, or the manner of his education; but it is reasonable to think that the latter was of the inferior kind, since he appears to have been chiefly distinguished by his skill in the vulgar science of bruising. He was once the occasion of apprehending a highwayman, who had robbed a coach, by giving him a single blow, which broke his arm. He seems to have been one of the most daring of the Waltham Blacks, and was the man who shot the chase-keeper, as above mentioned.

Edward Pink and John Pink were brothers, who spent the former part of their lives as carters, at Portsmouth, and had maintained the character of honest men till they became weak enough to join this desperate gang of deer-stealers.

It now remains to speak only of James Ansell, who likewise lived at Portsmouth. We are not informed in what way he had originally supported himself; but, for some years before he joined the desperate gang above mentioned, he was a highwayman, and had been concerned with the Waltham Blacks about two years before the commission of the murder which cost them their lives.

By a vigilant exertion of the civil power, all the above-mentioned offenders were taken into custody; and it being thought prudent to bring them to trial in London, they were removed thither under a strong guard, and lodged in Newgate. On the 13th of November, 1723, they were brought to their trial in the Court of King's Bench, and, being convicted on the clearest evidence, were found guilty, and sentenced to die; and it was immediately ordered that they should suffer on the fourth of the next month. One circumstance was very remarkable on this occasion; the judge had no sooner pronounced the sentence, than Henry Marshall, the man who had shot the keeper, was immediately deprived of the use of his tongue; nor did he recover his speech till the day before his death.

After passing the solemn sentence, the convicts behaved in a manner equally devout and resigned, were regular in their devotions, and prepared themselves for eternity with every mark of un-

feigned contrition. They received the sacrament before they left Newgate, acknowledged the justice of the sentence against them, and said they had been guilty of many crimes besides that for which they were to suffer.

At the place of execution they were so dejected as to be unable to address the populace; but they again confessed their sins, and recommended their souls to God, beseeching his mercy, through the merits of Christ, with the utmost fervency of devotion.

Those malefactors were hanged at Tyburn on the 4th of December, 1723.

A very short, though important lesson, may be learned from the fate of these unhappy men. Idleness must have been the great source of their lawless depredations, which at length ended in murder. No man, however successful in the profession, can expect to get as much profit by deer-stealing as by following his lawful business. The truth is, that, in almost every instance, it costs a man more pains to be a rogue than to be honest. Exclusive of the duties of religion, young persons cannot learn a more important maxim than that in the Scripture: 'The hand of the diligent maketh rich.'

In this place it may not be improper to make a single remark on the game-laws. These are supposed to be, possibly not without reason, severe: it is contended that those animals which are wild by nature are equally the property of every man. Perhaps this is the truth; but it should be remembered that, when laws are once enacted, THEY MUST BE OBEYED. Safety lies in acquiescence with, not in opposition to, legal institutions.

STEPHEN GARDENER,
EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

THIS malefactor was born in Moorfields, of poor parents, who put him apprentice to a weaver; but his behaviour soon became so bad, that his master was obliged to correct him severely, on which he ran away, and associated with blackguard boys in the streets, and then was driven home through mere hunger.

His friends were determined to send him to sea, and put him on board a corn vessel, the master of which traded to France and Holland. Being an idle and useless hand on board, he was treated so roughly by his shipmates, that he grew heartily tired of a seafaring life; and, on his return from the first voyage, he promised the utmost obedience if his friends would permit him to remain at home.

This was readily complied with, in the hope of a reformation, and he was now put to a waterman; but, being impatient of restraint, he soon quitted his service, and engaged with dissolute fellows in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, with whom he played at cards, dice, &c. till he was stripped of what little money he had, and then commenced pickpocket.

His first attempt of this kind was at Guildhall, during the drawing of the lottery, when he took a wig out of a man's pocket: but, though he was detected in the offence, the humanity of the surrounding multitude permitted his escape. This circumstance encouraged him to continue his practice, and about a month afterwards he was detected in picking another pocket, and, notwithstanding his protestations of innocence, underwent the discipline of the horse-pond.

He was now determined to give

over a business which was necessarily attended with so much hazard, and afforded so little prospect of advantage; but soon afterwards he became acquainted with two notorious housebreakers, named Garraway and Sly, who offered to take him as a partner; but he rejected their proposals, till one night, when he had lost all his money and most of his clothes at cards; then he went to his new acquaintance, and agreed to be concerned in their illicit practices.

Garraway proposed that they should rob his own brother, which being immediately agreed to, they broke open his house, and stole most of his and his wife's wearing apparel, which they sold, and spent the money in extravagance. They, in the next place, robbed Garraway's uncle of a considerable quantity of plate, which they sold to a woman named Gill, who disposed of the plate, and never accounted to them for the produce. Gardener, provoked at being thus defrauded of his share of the ill-got booty, informed Jonathan Wild of the robbery, who got him admitted an evidence against the other men, who were convicted, but respited on condition of being transported.

Gardener having now been some time acquainted with a woman who kept a public house in Fleet Lane, and who was possessed of some money, he proposed to marry her, with a view of obtaining her property; and the woman listening to his offer, they were married by one of the Fleet parsons.

The money Gardener obtained with his spouse was soon spent in extravagance; and, not long afterwards, they were apprehended on suspicion of felony, and conducted

to St. Sepulchre's watch-house: however, the charge against them not being validated, it was necessary to dismiss them; but, before they were set at liberty, the constable said to Gardener, 'Beware how you come here again, or this bellman will certainly say his verses over you:*' for the bellman happened to be at that time in the watch-house.

Gardener was greatly affected when the constable told him that the bellman would say his verses over him: but the impression it made on his mind soon wore off, and he quickly returned to his vicious practices.

In a short time after this adventure Gardener fell into company with one Rice Jones, and they agreed to go together on the *passing lay*, which is an artifice frequently practised in modern times; and though the sharpers are often taken into custody, and their tricks exposed in the newspapers, yet there

are repeatedly found people weak enough to submit to the imposition.

The following is a description of this trick from a book formerly printed: 'The rogues having concerted their plan, one of them takes a countryman into a public house, under pretence of any business they can think of; then the other comes in as a stranger, and in a little time finds a pack of cards, which his companion had designedly laid on some shelf in the room; on which the two sharpers begin to play. At length one of them offers a wager on the game, and puts down his money. The other shows his cards to the countryman, to convince him that he must certainly win, and offers to let him go halves in the wager; but, soon after the countryman has laid down his money, the sharpers manage the matter so as to *pass off* with it.'

This was evidently the mode of tricking formerly: but it seems to have been improved on of late years;

* It has been a very ancient practice, on the night preceding the execution of condemned criminals, for the bellman of the parish of St. Sepulchre to go under Newgate, and, ringing his bell, to repeat the following verses, as a piece of friendly advice, to the unhappy wretches under sentence of death:

All you that in the condemn'd hole do lie,
Prepare you, for to-morrow you shall die.
Watch all, and pray, the hour is drawing near,
That you before the Almighty must appear.
Examine well yourselves, in time repent,
That you may not t' eternal flames be sent,
And when St. Sepulchre's bell to-morrow tolls,
The Lord above have mercy on your souls!

Past twelve o'clock!

The following extract from Stow's Survey of London, page 125 of the quarto edition, printed in 1618, will prove that the above verses ought to be repeated by a clergyman, instead of a bellman:

'Robert Dowe, citizen and merchant taylor, of London, gave to the parish church of St. Sepulchres the somme of 50l. That after the seuerall sessions of London, when the prisoners remain in the gaole, as condemned men to death, expecting execution on the morrow following; the clarke (that is, the parson) of the church should come in the night time, and likewise early in the morning, to the window of the prison where they lye, and there ringing certain toles with a hand-bell, appointed for the purpose, he doth afterwards (in most Christian manner) put them in mind of their present condition, and ensuing execution, desiring them to be prepared therefore as they ought to be. When they are in the cart, and brought before the wall of the church, there he standeth ready with the same bell, and after certain toles rehearseth an appointed praier, desiring all the people there present to pray for them. The beadle also of Merchant Taylors' Hall hath an honest stipend allowed to see that this is duely done.'

for the sharpers generally game with the countryman till he has lost all his money ; and then he has only to execrate his own folly, for suffering himself to be duped by a couple of rascals.

In this practice our adventurers were very successful at different places, particularly at Bristol ; but in this last place Jones bilked Gardener in such a manner as to prove that there is no truth in the observation of ' honour among thieves ;' for Jones, having defrauded a country gentleman of a gold watch and chain, a suit of laced clothes, and about a hundred guineas, gave no share of the booty to Gardener.

This induced the latter to think of revenge ; but he disguised his sentiments, and they went together to Bath, where they remained some time, and then proceeded on their journey ; but, in the morning on which they set out, Gardener stole an iron pestle from the inn where they lay, and concealed it in his boot, with an intention of murdering his companion when they should come into an unfrequented place.

On their journey Gardener generally kept behind Jones, and twice took out the pestle, with an intention to perpetrate the murder ; but his resolution failing him, he at length dropped it in the road, unperceived by his companion.

In a few days afterwards these companions in iniquity parted ; and on the occasion Jones said, ' Harkye, Gardener, whither are you going ?' ' To London,' said he. ' Why then,' replied Jones, ' you are going to be hanged.'

We find that this was not the first intimation that Gardener received of the fatal consequences that must attend his illicit practices ; but it appeared to have no good effect on him ; for, soon after he quitted Jones, *he broke open a house between*

Abergavenny and Monmouth ; but, finding no money, he took only a gown, with which he rode off.

Soon after his arrival in London he robbed a house in Addle Hill, but was not apprehended for it ; but in a short time he broke open the house of Mrs. Roberts, and carried off linen to the amount of twenty-five pounds.

In this robbery he was assisted by John Martin ; and both the offenders, being soon afterwards taken into custody, were brought to trial, capitally convicted, and received sentence of death ; but Martin was afterwards reprieved, on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

After sentence of death Gardener became as sincere a penitent as he had been a notorious offender. He resigned himself to his fate with the utmost submission ; and before he quitted Newgate, on the day of execution, he dressed himself in a shroud, in which he was executed, refusing to wear any other clothes, though the weather was intensely cold.

At the fatal tree he saw some of his old companions, whom he desired to take warning by his calamitous fate, to avoid bad company, and embrace a life of sobriety, as the most certain road to happiness in this world and the next.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 3d of February, 1724.

The fate of this malefactor shows us the ill consequence of an early attachment to gaming. It unfits both the mind and body for all honest employment ; and though it does not, in all instances, lead to the gallows, it is one of the readiest preparatives to it that can be imagined. It is to be hoped that parents in general will be cautious to prevent the spirit of gaming in their children, since nothing more effectually al-

lures to destruction ; and the happiness of the next generation must depend much on the care we take of the present.

We wish the tricks so frequently and successfully played by gamblers may teach people in general to be guarded against their arts. Those who have no bad design of

their own are not apt to suspect others ; but any person may be certain that when a stranger produces a pack of cards, and tempts him to game, no good can be intended. The life of a gambler is not only wretched in itself, but tends to make unhappy all those with whom he is connected.



Roche and his Associates throwing the Master and Mate overboard.

PHILIP ROCHE,

EXECUTED FOR PIRACY AND MURDER.

We have already commented upon the foul crime of piracy. The account now to be given of this atrocious offender will show to what a horrid pitch it has been carried ; and happy should we feel ourselves if we could add that this was a singular case. In latter years we find that murder, foul as that committed by Roche, was practised on board of one of our men of war, in which Captain Pigot, her commander, was barbarously killed ; and the muti-

nous crew seized the frigate, and delivered her to the enemy.

This detested monster, Philip Roche, was a native of Ireland, and, being brought up to a seafaring life, served for a considerable time on board some coasting vessels, and then sailed to Barbadoes on board a West-Indiaman. Here he endeavoured to procure the place of a clerk to a factor ; but, failing in this, he went again to sea, and was advanced to the station of a first mate.

He now became acquainted with a fisherman named Neale, who hinted to him large sums of money might be acquired by insuring ships, and then causing them to be sunk, to defraud the insurers.

Roche was wicked enough to listen to this horrid idea, and, becoming acquainted with a gentleman who had a ship bound to Cape Breton, he got a station on board, next in command to the captain, who, having a high opinion of him, trusted the ship to his management, directing the seamen to obey his commands.

If Roche had entertained any idea of sinking the ship, he seemed now to have abandoned it; but he had brought on board with him five Irishmen, who were concerned in the shocking tragedy that ensued.

When they had been only a few days at sea, the plan was executed as follows: One night, when the captain and most of the crew were asleep, Roche gave orders to two of the seamen to furl the sails, which being immediately done, the poor fellows no sooner descended on the deck, than Roche and his hellish associates murdered them, and threw them overboard. At this instant a man and a boy at the yard-arm, observing what passed, and dreading a similar fate, hurried towards the topmast-head, when one of the Irishmen, named Cullen, followed them, and, seizing the boy, threw him into the sea. The man, thinking to effect at least a present escape, descended to the main deck, where Roche instantly seized, murdered, and then threw him overboard.

The noise occasioned by these transactions alarming the sailors below, they hurried up with all possible expedition; but they were severally seized and murdered as fast as they came on deck, and, being

first knocked on the head, were thrown into the sea. At length the master and mate came on the quarter-deck, when Roche and his villainous companions seized them, and, tying them back to back, committed them to the merciless waves.

These execrable murders being perpetrated, the murderers ransacked the chests of the deceased; then sat down to regale themselves with liquor; and, while the profligate crew were carousing, they determined to commence pirates, and that Roche should be the captain, as the reward of his superior villainy.

They had intended to have sailed up the Gulf of St. Lawrence; but as they were within a few days' sail of the Bristol Channel when the bloody tragedy was acted, and finding themselves short of provisions, they put into Portsmouth, and, giving the vessel a fictitious name, they painted her afresh, and then sailed for Rotterdam. At this city they disposed of their cargo, and took in a fresh one. Here they were unknown, and an English gentleman, named Annesley, shipped considerable property on board, and took his passage with them for the port of London; but the villains threw this unfortunate gentleman overboard, after they had been only one day at sea.

When the ship arrived in the river Thames, Mr. Annesley's friends made inquiry after him, in consequence of his having sent letters to England, describing the ship in which he proposed to embark; but Roche denied any knowledge of the gentleman, and even disclaimed his own name.

Notwithstanding his confident assertions, it was rightly presumed who he was, and a letter which he sent to his wife being stopped, he was taken into custody. Being carried before the Secretary of State,

for examination, he averred that he was not Philip Roche; and said that he knew no person of that name. Hereupon the intercepted letter was shown him, on which he instantly confessed his crimes, and was immediately committed to take his trial at the next Admiralty sessions.

It was intimated to Roche that he might expect a pardon if he would impeach any three persons who were more culpable than himself, so that they might be prosecuted to conviction; but not being able to do this, he was brought to his trial, and found guilty: judgment of death was awarded against him.

After conviction he professed to be of the Roman Catholic faith, but was certainly no bigot to that religion, since he attended the devotion according to the Protestant form. He was hanged at Execution Dock on the 5th of August, 1723; but was so ill at the time, that he could not make any public declaration of the abhorrence of the crime for which he suffered.

It is impossible to read this shocking narrative without execrating the

very memory of the wretches whose crimes gave rise to it. History has not furnished us with any account of what became of the wicked accomplices of Roche; but there can be little doubt of their having dragged on a miserable existence, if they did not end their lives at the gallows.

The mind of the guilty must be perpetually racked with torments; and the murderer who is permitted to live does but live in wretchedness and despair. His days must be filled with anxiety, and his nights with torture.

From the fate of the miserable subject of this narrative, let our sailors be taught that an honest pursuit of the duties of their station is more likely to ensure happiness to them than the possession of any sum of money unlawfully obtained. Our brave tars are not, from their situation in life, much accustomed to the attendance on religious duties: but it can cost them no trouble to recollect that to 'do justice and love mercy' is equally the character of the brave man and the Christian.

JOHN STANLEY,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MRS. MAYCOCK.

In our accounts of the primary cause of the misfortunes and unhappy fate of William Burk we have attempted to advise mothers against a too long unrestrained indulgence to their sons; and we now come to the case of a father, by the same kind of ill-judged fondness, laying the foundation of ruin and disgrace to his son.

Mr. Stanley was the son of an officer in the army, and born in the year 1690, at Duce Hall, in Essex, a seat that belonged to Mr. Palmer, who was his uncle by his mother's

side. Young Stanley being the favorite of his father, he began to teach him the art of fencing when he was no more than five years of age; and other officers likewise practising the same art with him, he became a kind of master of the sword when he was but a mere boy: for, to stimulate his courage, it was common for those who fenced with him to give him wine or other strong liquors.

In consequence of this treatment, the boy grew daring and insolent beyond expression, and at length behaved with so uncommon a de-

gree of audacity, that his father deemed him a singular character of bravery.

While he was very young, Mr. Stanley, being ordered to join his regiment in Spain, took his son with him; and in that country he was a spectator of several engagements; but his principal delight was in trampling on the bodies of the deceased, after the battles were ended.

From Spain the elder Stanley was ordered to Ireland, whither he took his son, and there procured for him an ensign's commission; but the young gentleman, habituating himself to extravagant company, spent much more money than the produce of his commission, which he soon sold, and then returned to England.

The father was greatly mortified at this proceeding, and advised him to make application to General Stanhope, who had been a warm friend to the family; but this advice was lost on the young fellow, who abandoned himself to the most dissolute course of life, borrowed money of all his acquaintance, which he soon squandered at the gaming-tables, and procured further supplies from women with whom he made illicit connexions.

He was so vain of his acquaintance with the ladies, that he boasted of their favours as an argument in proof of his own accomplishments; though what he might obtain from the weakness of one woman he commonly squandered on others of more abandoned character.

One mode which he took to supply his extravagance was to introduce himself into the company of young gentlemen who were but little acquainted with the vices of the age, whom he assisted in wasting their fortunes in every species of scandalous dissipation.

At length, after a scene of riot in London, he went with one of his

associates to Flanders, and thence to Paris; and Stanley boasted not a little of the favours he received among the French ladies, and of the improvements he had made in the science of fencing.

On his return to England, the opinion he conceived of his skill in the use of the sword made him insufferably vain and presuming. He would frequently intrude himself into company at a tavern, and, saying he was come to make himself welcome, would sit down at the table without further ceremony. The company would sometimes bear with his insolence for the sake of peace; but, when this was the case, it was a chance if he did not pretend to have received some affront, and, drawing his sword, walk off while the company was in confusion. It was not always, however, that matters thus ended; for sometimes a gentleman of spirit would take the liberty of kicking our hero out of the house.

It will now be proper to mention something of his connexion with Mrs. Maycock, the murder of whom cost him his life. As he was returning from a gaming-house which he frequented in Covent Garden, he met a Mr. Bryan, of Newgate Street, and his sister, Mrs. Maycock, the wife of a mercer on Ludgate Hill. Stanley rudely ran against the man, and embraced the woman, on which a quarrel arose; but, this subsiding, Stanley insisted on seeing the parties home: this he did, and spent the evening with them; and, from this circumstance, a fatal connexion arose, as will appear in the sequel.

Stanley, having made an acquaintance with the family, soon afterwards met Mrs. Maycock at the house of a relation in Red Lion Street, Holborn. In a short time, Mr. Maycock removing into South-

wark, the visits of our captain were admitted on a footing of intimacy.

The husband dying soon after this connexion, Stanley became more at liberty to pay his addresses to the widow: and it appears that some considerable intimacy subsisted between them, from the following letter, which is not more a proof of the absurd vanity of the man that could write it, than of the woman that could keep him company after receiving it. The egregious coxcomb and supercilious flatterer are visible in every line:

'I am to-morrow to be at the Opera: O that I could add, with her I love! The Opera, where beauties less beautiful than thou sit panting, admired, and taste the sweet barbarian sounds. On Friday I shall be at the masquerade at Somerset House, where modest pleasure hides itself, before it can be touched; but, though it is uncertain in the shape, 'tis real in the sense; for masks scorn to steal and not repay: therefore, as they conceal the face, they oft make the body better known. At this end of the town, many faded beauties bid their eyes and the brush kiss their cheeks and lips, till their charms only glimmer with a borrowed grace; so that a city beauty, rich in her native spring of simplicity and loveliness, will doubly shine with us—shine like the innocent morning blush of light, that glitters untainted on the gardens.'

This exquisite piece of nonsense flattered the vanity of the lady, so that he was admitted to repeat his visits at his own convenience. At this time a young fellow, who had served his apprenticeship with the late Mr. Maycock, and who was possessed of a decent fortune to begin the world, paid his addresses to the young widow ; but she pre-

ferred a licentious life with Stanley to a more virtuous connexion.

Soon after this she quitted her house in Southwark, and the lovers spent their time at balls, plays, and assemblies, till her money was dissipated, when he did not scruple to insinuate that she had been too liberal of her favours to other persons. In the mean time she bore him three children, one of whom was living at the time of the father's execution.

Stanley continuing his dissolute course of life, his parents became very uneasy, in fear of the fatal consequences that might ensue; and his father, who saw too late the wrong bias he had given to his education, procured him the commission of a lieutenant, to go to Cape Coast Castle, in the service of the African Company.

The young fellow seemed so pleased with this appointment, that his friends conceived great hopes that he would reform. Preparations being made for his voyage, and the company having advanced a considerable sum, he went to Portsmouth, in order to embark; but he had only been a few days in that town when he was followed by Mrs. Maycock, with her infant child. She reproached him with baseness, in first debauching, and then leaving her to starve; and, employing all the arts she was mistress of to divert him from his resolution, he gave her half the money which belonged to the company, and followed her to London with the rest.

Shocked with the news of this dishonorable action, the father took to his bed, and died of grief. Young Stanley appeared greatly grieved at this event, and, to divert his chagrin, he went to Flanders, where he staid a considerable time, when he returned to England, and

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lived in as abandoned a manner as before.

Soon after his return, having drank freely with two tradesmen, they all walked together towards Hampstead; and, meeting a Mr. Dawson, with five other gentlemen, a quarrel ensued. One of the gentlemen fired a pistol, the ball from which grazed Stanley's skin. Enraged hereby, the latter drew his sword, and, making a pass at him, the sword ran into the body of Mr. Dawson, through the lower part of his belly, and to his back-bone. The wounded man was conveyed to a neighbouring house, where he lay six weeks before he was perfectly recovered.

However, as Dawson happened to know Stanley, he took out a writ against him for damages, to recover his expense of a cure; but the writ was never executed, as Stanley was so celebrated for his skill in the use of the sword, and his daring disposition, that the bailiffs were afraid to arrest him.

Not long after this, quarreling with Captain Chickley, at a cider-cellar in Covent Garden, Stanley challenged the captain to fight in a dark room. They shut themselves in; but, a constable being sent for, he broke open the door, and probably saved Stanley's life; for Chickley had then ran his sword through his body, while he himself had received only two slight wounds.

It appears that Stanley still paid occasional visits to Mrs. Maycock; and he had the insolence to pretend anger at her receiving the visits of other persons, though he was not able to support her; for he had the vanity to think that a woman whom he had debauched ought for ever to pay true allegiance to him, as a wife to her husband.

Mrs. Maycock, having been to visit a gentleman, was returning one

night through Chancery Lane, in company with another woman, and Mr. Hammond, of the Old Bailey. Stanley, in company with another man, met the parties, and he and his companion insisted on going with the women. Hammond hereupon said the ladies belonged to him; but Mrs. Maycock, now recognizing Stanley, said, 'What, captain, is it you?' He asked her where she was going; she said to Mr. Hammond's, in the Old Bailey. He replied that he was glad to meet her, and would go with her.

As they walked down Fleet Street, Stanley desired his companion to go back, and wait for him at an appointed place; and, as the company was going forward, Stanley struck a man, who happened to be in his way, and kicked a woman on the same account.

Being arrived at Hammond's house, the company desired Stanley to go home; but this he refused, and Mrs. Maycock going into the kitchen, he pushed in after her, and, some words having passed between them, he stabbed her so that she died in about an hour and a half.

Other company going into the kitchen saw Stanley flourishing his sword, while the deceased was fainting with loss of blood, and crying out, 'I am stabbed! I am murdered!' Stanley's sword being taken from him, he threw himself down by Mrs. Maycock, and said, 'My dear Hannah, will you not speak to me?'

The offender, being taken into custody, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, where some witnesses endeavoured to prove that he was a lunatic; but the jury considering his extravagant conduct as the effect of his vices only, and the evidence against him being positive, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.

Before his conviction he had behaved in a very inconsiderate manner; nor was his conduct much altered afterwards, only that, when he heard the name of Mrs. Maycock mentioned, he was seized with violent tremblings, and drops of cold sweat fell from his face.

He was carried to the place of execution in a mourning coach; but, on being put into the cart under the gallows, he turned pale, and was so weak, that he could not stand without support. He made no speech to the people; but only said, that, as a hearse was provided to take away his body, he hoped no one would prevent its receiving Christian burial. It was observed that he wept bitterly after the cap was drawn over his eyes.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 23d of December, 1723, at the age of twenty-five years.

It is impossible to dismiss this subject without reflecting on the absurd conduct of Stanley's father,

who, by his eagerness to teach him, while an infant, the use of the sword, gave him that degree of false bravery and mad courage, that tempted him to the unlawful use of it on every occasion; and, at length, combining with his vices, occasioned the perpetration of the horrid crime of murder—a murder of the most aggravated nature, that of a woman who had fallen a sacrifice to his arts of seduction, aided, no doubt, by her own uncontrollable vanity.

The untimely fate of Mrs. Maycock should teach married women the inestimable value of chastity. The woman who listens to the arts of a seducer is in the high road to destruction; and, as surely as she suffers her person to be violated, she entails misery on herself and family, and lays the groundwork of a long series of repentance: and happy may she think herself, if, by the grace of God, that repentance prove not ineffectual.

FRANCIS BRIGHTWELL AND BENJAMIN BRIGHTWELL, TRIED FOR A HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

As it is one professed design of this publication to give trials, in extraordinary cases, on which the parties accused have been acquitted; in compliance with this rule we insert the following, though it will be seen that the supposed offenders, so far from being thieves, were an ornament to human nature.

In the month of August, 1724, Francis Brightwell and Benjamin Brightwell were indicted for assaulting John Pargiter on the highway, and robbing him of three shillings.

It was sworn by Mr. Pargiter that he had been robbed, on the road to Hampstead, by two fellows dressed in soldiers' clothes; and that, being on the same road a few days

afterwards, he was showing some farmers the spot where he had been robbed, at the very time when the Brightwells came in sight; on which he declared that they were the persons who had robbed him; whereupon they were immediately taken into custody; which was a work of no great difficulty, as the surprise, on being charged with a crime of which they were wholly innocent, deprived them of all idea of resistance.

These brothers were soldiers in the grenadier guards; and, when they were carried before a magistrate, though Mr. Pargiter swore positively to their persons, Francis alleged that he was on guard at the time of the robbery, and Benjamin said that he was at home.

On the trial, the sergeant produced the regimental book, from which it was evident that, when the robbery was committed, Francis was on guard at Kensington; and several persons of reputation proved that Benjamin was at his lodgings in Clare Market, and likewise gave him an excellent character.

With regard to Francis, Mr. Hughs, a clergyman, delivered his testimony in the following words: 'I have known Francis Brightwell near twenty years. He was always reputed to be a person of the fairest character for sobriety, piety, and justice. He was, to an extraordinary degree, accomplished with Latin and Greek literature, and had good skill in Roman antiquities; and, in a word, he carried so great a share of exquisite learning under his grenadier's cap, that I believe there is not such another grenadier in the universe.'

This testimony of Mr. Hughs was confirmed by a number of military officers; and the Court and jury considering that Mr. Pargiter must have been mistaken in the parties who robbed him, the brothers were honorably acquitted.

On the 22d of the month in which he was tried, Francis Brightwell died at his lodgings at Paddington, as supposed, of the gaol distemper. He was attended, during his short illness, by the late eminent Sir Hans Sloan; but the malignity of his disorder defied the power of medicine.

The following curious letter, respecting Francis Brightwell, is extracted from The British Journal of the 5th of September, 1724:

'SIR,—Finding that all our public papers, from the 4th of August to this day, have omitted to make honorable mention of some very remarkable circumstances relating to a *very private person*, I desire his

memory may be deposited in your journal. The person I mean is Francis Brightwell, the grenadier, who was tried and acquitted at the Old Bailey, for a robbery sworn against him; and who, since his coming out of prison, died, as 'tis said, of the gaol distemper.'

When evidence was given against him in Court, Brightwell, by several witnesses, proved that he was upon the king's guard, at Kensington, at the time that the robbery (if a robbery) was committed. Hereupon the Court went into an inquiry concerning the reputation and character of the prisoner. Some officers who had known him long in the service gave testimony to his sobriety and diligence in the duty of a soldier. As to his honesty, a lady (present in Court) declared she had intrusted him with a thousand pounds at a time; and a gentleman, that he had committed his house and goods, to the value of 6000*l.* to his keeping: in both which trusts Brightwell had acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

These ample testimonies, concurring to the honour of a man in so low a condition of life, gave, you may imagine, no small surprise to all that were present; when a clergyman added to their astonishment by declaring that he had long known the prisoner to be not only a person of sobriety, but likewise of very excellent learning, and particularly in Latin and Greek; for that Brightwell had often consulted him upon difficult passages in Virgil and Horace.

Thus much for what appeared at the trial of this grenadier. I shall only remark upon his learning, that I am amazed that scholarship is not very common among military men, considering their profession admits of more leisure hours than any other. Perhaps these gentlemen are

afraid of knowledge, from a celebrated maxim delivered by John Dryden:—‘The learned all are cowards by profession:’ and yet Alexander and Cæsar were scholars, and they did not seem to want courage.

But, to pursue what further particulars I have learned of this deceased grenadier. He was contented in his station, studious of leisure, and ambitious only of knowledge. He had offers of being promoted to the rank of corporal or sergeant, which he declined, that he might have as few avocations as possible from his studies. Neither did he ever covet money; and, I am apt to believe, had he been at the sacking of a town, he would not have thought of carrying off any other plunder but a valuable book or two. Take the following instance of his disregard of gain:—He had an excellent manner of cleaning and furbishing arms, for which he had his settled prices. An officer, whose arms he had brightened, was so well pleased with his work, that he sent Brightwell (over and above the usual price) a guinea, for a present. The philosopher took his price, and returned the guinea by his servant. Some time after, when the gentleman saw him, ‘Why,’ said he, ‘would you not accept the guinea I sent you?’ ‘I am paid for my work,’ replied the sentinel, ‘and desire no more.’ ‘Accept of a crown, then, if your modesty makes you think a guinea too much,’ said the officer. ‘Excuse me, sir,’ answered the veteran, ‘and do not think it vanity or affectation when I refuse your kindness; but, indeed, Sir, I don’t want it; but I am thirsty, and have no money about me; so that if your honour will be pleased to give me three-pence to drink your health, I shall thankfully accept of it.’

This last particular of our grenadier runs so very parallel with a story in Sir William Temple’s Observations of the United Provinces, that I think it proper to transcribe it on this occasion. Vol. i. p. 50.

‘Among the many and various hospitals that are in every man’s curiosity and talk that travels in Holland, I was affected with none more than that of the aged seamen at Enchusyden, which is contrived, finished, and ordered, as if it were done with a kind intention of some well-natured man, that those, who had passed their whole lives in the hardships and incommunities of the sea, should find a retreat, stored with all ease and conveniency that old age is capable of feeling and enjoying. And here I met with the only rich man that I ever saw in my life: for one of these old seamen, entertaining me with the plain stories of his fifty years’ voyages and adventures, while I was viewing this hospital and the church adjoining, I gave him, at parting, a piece of their coin, about the value of a crown: he took it, smiling, and offered it me again; but, when I refused it, he asked me what he should do with the money. I left him to overcome his modesty as he could; but a servant coming after me saw him give it to a little girl that opened the church-door as she passed by him: which made me reflect on the fantastic calculation of riches and poverty that is current in the world, by which a man that wants a million is a prince, he that wants but a groat is a beggar, and this was a *poor man that wanted nothing at all.*’

The case of these brothers affords an admirable lesson to prosecutors to be cautious how they swear to the identity of persons. It is better that the guilty should escape than that the innocent should be punished.

It likewise affords us an instance of the mysterious providence of God. Two innocent men are charged with a crime; and the consequence of imprisonment, and pos-

sibly of grief, ends in the death of one of them. We may presume that he was too good for this wicked world; and that the Almighty chose this method of calling him to a better!

THOMAS PACKER AND JOSEPH PICKEN,
EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THOMAS PACKER was a native of London, his father being a shoemaker in Butcherhall Lane, Newgate Street. He was bound apprentice to the master of the Ship Tavern at Greenwich; but, not being content in his situation, he was turned over to a vintner, who kept the Rummer Tavern, near Red Lion Square; and, having served the rest of his time, he lived as a waiter in different places.

He had not been long out of his time before he married; but the expenses of his new connexion, added to those arising from the extravagance of his disposition, soon reduced him to circumstances of distress.

Joseph Picken was likewise a native of London, being the son of a tailor in Clerkenwell; but his father dying while he was an infant, he was educated by his mother, who placed him with a vintner near Billingsgate, with whom he served an apprenticeship, after which he married, and kept the tap of the Mermaid Inn at Windsor: but his wife being a bad manager, and his business much neglected, he was soon reduced to the utmost extremity of poverty.

Being obliged even to sell his bed and sleep on the floor, his wife advised him to go on the highway, to supply their necessities. Fatally for him, he listened to her advice, and repaired to London, where, on the following day, he fell into company with Packer, who had been an old acquaintance.

The poverty of these unhappy men tempted them to make a speedy resolution of committing depredations on the public; in consequence of which they hired horses as to go to Windsor; but, instead thereof, they rode towards Finchley; and, in a road between Highgate and Hornsey, they robbed two farmers, whom they compelled to dismount, and turned their horses loose.

Hastening to London with their ill-gotten booty, they went to a public house in Monmouth Street, where one of them, taking a handkerchief out of his pocket, accidentally drew out his pistol with it, which being remarked by a person in company, he procured a peace-officer, who took them into custody on suspicion.

Having been lodged in the Round House for that night, they were taken before a magistrate on the following day; and, being separately examined, disagreed much in their tale; and the parties who had been robbed attending, and swearing to their persons, they were committed for trial.

When they were brought to the bar, they endeavoured to prove that they were absent from the spot at the time the robbery was committed; but, failing in this, a verdict of guilty was given against them, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction they behaved with every sign of contrition. Packer was in a very bad state of health almost the whole time he lay under

sentence of death ; and complained much of the ingratitude of his wife, who first advised him to the commission of the crime, yet never visited him during his miserable confinement in Newgate. These unhappy men prepared to meet their fate with decent resignation, and received the sacrament with every sign of genuine devotion.

They were executed at Tyburn on the 1st of February, 1725, but were so shocked at the idea of their approaching dissolution, that they trembled with the dreadful apprehension, and were unable to give that advice to the surrounding multitude, which, however, might be easily implied from their pitiable condition.

It does not appear, from any account transmitted to us, that these

men had been guilty of any robbery but the single one for which they suffered.

Hence we may learn how very short is the date of vice ! It may be urged that the extremity of their poverty was a temptation to the commission of the crime ; but let it be remembered that a state of the most abject poverty is preferable to the life of a thief ; an honest man, be he ever so poor, need not blush to look the first man in the kingdom in the face.

The man who does unto others as he would they should do unto him will enjoy the approbation of his own conscience ; and may consider himself as equal in character to the greatest monarch in the universe.

LEWIS HOUSSART,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

This malefactor was born at Sedan, in France ; but his parents, being Protestants, quitted that kingdom in consequence of an edict of Lewis XIV. and settled in Dutch Brabant.

Young Houssart's father placed him with a barber-surgeon at Amsterdam, with whom he lived a considerable time, and then served as a surgeon on board a Dutch ship, which he quitted through want of health, and came to England.

He had been a considerable time in this country when he became acquainted with Ann Rondeau, whom he married at the French church in Spitalfields. Having lived about three years with his wife at Hoxton, he left her with disgust, and, going into the city, passed for a single man, working as a barber and hair-dresser ; and getting acquainted with a Mrs. Hern, of Prince's

Street, Lothbury, he married her at St. Antholin's church.

No sooner was the ceremony performed than the company went to drink some wine at an adjacent tavern, when the parish-clerk observed that Houssart changed countenance, and some of the company asked him if he repented his bargain ; to which he answered in the negative.

It appears as if, even at this time, he had come to a resolution of murdering his first wife ; for he had not been long married before his second charging him with a former matrimonial connexion, he desired her to be easy, for she would be convinced in a short time that he had no other wife but herself.

During this interval his first wife lived with her mother in Swan Alley, Shoreditch ; and Mrs. Houssart being in an ill state of health, her

husband called upon her about a fortnight before the perpetration of the murder, and told her he would bring her something to relieve her : and the next day he gave her a medicine that had the appearance of conserve of roses, which threw her into such severe convulsion fits, that her life was despaired of for some hours ; but at length she recovered.

This scheme failing, Houssart determined to murder her ; to effect which, and conceal the crime, he took the following method :

Having directed his second wife to meet him at the Turk's Head, in Bishopsgate Street, she went thither and waited for him. In the mean time he dressed himself in a white great coat, and walked out with a cane in his hand, and a sword by his side. Going to the end of Swan Alley, Shoreditch, he gave a boy a penny to go into the lodgings of his first wife and her mother, Mrs. Rondeau, and tell the old woman that a gentleman wanted to speak with her at the Black Dog, in Bishopsgate Street.

Mrs. Rondeau saying she would wait on the gentleman, Houssart hid himself in the alley, till the boy told him she was gone out, and then went to his wife's room, and cut her throat with a razor, and, thus murdered, she was found by her mother, on her return from the Black Dog, after inquiring in vain for the gentleman who was said to be waiting for her.

In the interim Houssart went to his other wife at the Turk's Head, where he appeared much dejected, and had some sudden starts of passion. The landlady of the house, who was at supper with his wife, expressing some surprise at his behaviour, he became more calm, and said he was only uneasy lest her

husband should return, and find him so meanly dressed ; and, soon after this, Houssart and his wife went home.

Mrs. Rondeau, having found her daughter murdered, as above mentioned, went to her son, to whom she communicated the affair : and he, having heard that Houssart lodged in Lothbury, took a constable, went thither, and said he was come to apprehend him on suspicion of having murdered his wife ; on which he laughed loudly, and asked if any thing in his looks indicated that he could be guilty of such a crime.

Being committed to Newgate, he was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, but acquitted for want of the evidence of the boy, who was not found till a considerable time afterwards : but the Court ordered the prisoner to remain in Newgate, to take his trial for bigamy.

In consequence hereof he was indicted at the next sessions, when full proof was brought of both his marriages ; but an objection was made by his counsel, on a point of law, ' Whether he could be guilty of bigamy, as the first marriage was performed by a French minister, and he was only once married according to the form of the Church of England.' On this the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges.

While Houssart lay in Newgate, waiting this solemn award, the boy whom he had employed to go into the house of Mrs. Rondeau, and who had hitherto kept secret the whole transaction, being in conversation with his mother, asked her what would become of the boy if he should be apprehended. The mother told him he would be only sworn to tell the truth. ' Why,'

said he, 'I thought they would hang him : ' but the mother satisfying him that there was no danger of any such consequence, and talking further with him on the subject, he confessed that he was the boy who went with the message.

Hereupon he was taken to Solomon Rondeau, brother of the deceased, who went with him to a justice of peace, and the latter ordered a constable to attend him to Newgate, where he fixed on Housart as the person who had employed him in the manner above mentioned.

In consequence hereof Solomon Rondeau lodged an appeal against the prisoner; but it appearing that there was some bad Latin in it, no proceedings could be had thereon; and, therefore, another appeal was lodged the next sessions, when the prisoner urging that he was not prepared for his trial, he was yet indulged till a subsequent sessions.

The appeal was brought in the name of Solomon Rondeau, as heir to the deceased; and the names of John Doe and Richard Roe were entered in the common form, as pledges to prosecute.

When the trial came on, the counsel for the prisoner stated the following pleas, in bar to, and abatement of, the proceedings:—

I. That besides the appeal, to which he now pleaded, there was another yet depending, and undetermined.

II. A misnomer, because his name was not Lewis, but Louis.

III. That the addition of labourer was wrong, for he was not a labourer, but a barber-surgeon.

IV. That there were no such persons as John Doe and Richard Roe, who were mentioned as pledges in the appeal.

V. That Henry Rondeau was the brother and heir to the de-

ceased; that Solomon Rondeau was not her brother and heir, and, therefore, was not the proper appellant; and,

VI. That the defendant was not guilty of the facts charged in the appeal.

The counsel for the appellant replied to these several pleas in substance as follows:—

To the first, that the former appeal was already quashed, and therefore could not be depending and undetermined.

To the second, that it appeared that the prisoner had owned to the name of Lewis, by pleading to it on two indictments, the one for bigamy, and the other for murder; and his handwriting was produced, in which he had spelt his name Lewis; and it was likewise proved that he had usually answered to that name.

To the third, it was urged that, on the two former indictments, he had pleaded to the addition of labourer; and a person swore that the prisoner worked as a journeyman or servant, and did not carry on his business as a master.

To the fourth, it was urged that there were two such persons in Middlesex as John Doe and Richard Roe; the one a weaver, and the other a soldier; and this fact was sworn to.

In answer to the fifth, Ann Rondeau, the mother of the deceased, swore that she had no children except the murdered party, and Solomon Rondeau, the appellant; that Solomon was brother and heir to the deceased, which Henry Rondeau was not, being only the son of her husband by a former wife.

With regard to the last article, respecting his being not guilty, that was left to be determined by the opinion of the jury.

Hereupon the trial was brought

on; and the same witnesses being examined as on the former trial, to which that of the boy was added, the jury determined that the prisoner was guilty, in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

His behaviour after conviction was very improper for one in his melancholy situation; and, as the day of execution drew nearer, he became still more thoughtless and more hardened, and frequently declared that he would cut his throat, as the jury had found him guilty of cutting that of his wife.

His behaviour at the place of execution was equally hardened. He refused to pray with the Ordinary of Newgate, and another clergyman, who kindly attended to assist him in his devotions.

He suffered on the 7th of December, 1724, opposite the end of Swan Alley, in Shoreditch.

'Since laws were made for every degree,' we suppose the villain must have his advocate as well as the injured and the innocent. At the same time, it must be acknowledged, by every dispassionate and reasonable being, that it is a sad perversion of justice when able lawyers will come forth and use such frivolous arguments to shield a guilty man as those produced on the trial of Houssart: not but that in our opinion, so far from rendering him any assistance, they only tended more clearly to prove his guilt; for no man, with a consciousness of his own innocence, would have consented to so slender and unjust a method of screening himself from the punishment he so richly merited and received.

Justice must and ought to take its due course:

We must not make a scarecrow of the law,
Setting it up to fear the birds of prey,
And let it keep one shape, till custom
make it
Their perch, and not their terror.

SHAKESPEARE.

This must not be, else where is the security for the righteous and the just? A person accused of any criminal act ought not be allowed to evade the sentence of the law by a flaw in the indictment, a mere mispelling of a name, a wrong residence, a wrong profession, or some such paltry subterfuge; he ought not to slip the noose, into which his neck has got entangled, by so undue a course. Houssart's deed was one of the worst in the black catalogue of crime. Murder, in any instance, is an offence of the most heinous nature; but, in the present case, words can scarce be found of sufficient force to paint the enormity of so base an act as the depriving that woman of existence whom he had sworn to cherish and protect.

Murder itself is past all expiation,
The greatest crime that Nature doth abhor:
Not being, is abominable to her;
And when we be, make others not to be,
'Tis worse than bestial: and we did not so
When only we by Nature's aid did live,
A heterogeneous kind, as semi-beasts;
When reason challeng'd scarce a part in us:
But now doth Manhood and Civility
Stand at the bar of Justice, and there plead
How much they're wronged, and how much
defac'd.

When man doth dye his hands in blood of
man.

Judgment itself would scarce a law enact
Against the murd'rer, thinking it a fact
That man 'gainst man would never dare
commit,

Since the worst things of Nature do not it.

GORE.

JOSEPH BLAKE, ALIAS BLUESKIN,

EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

THIS was one of the most notorious and daring thieves in the days in which he committed his depredations. He had offended in all the

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steps of villainy, beginning, in his boyish years, as a pickpocket; but he confined himself to none, appearing in the streets, in houses, and on the highway, as booty presented. His enormities were the subject of public conversation, and the dread of the traveller.

He was a native of London, and was sent to school by his parents for the space of six years; but he made little progress in learning, having a very early propensity to acts of dishonesty. While at school he made an acquaintance with William Blawit (who afterwards entered into Jonathan Wild's gang), became one of the most notorious villains of the age, and then he acquired the nickname of Blueskin, from his dark countenance.

No sooner had Blake left school than he commenced pickpocket, and had been in all the prisons for felons before he was fifteen years of age. From this practice he turned street-robber, and joined with Oaky, Levee, and many other villains, who acted under the directions of Jonathan Wild. For some of the robberies they committed they were taken into custody, and Blake was admitted an evidence against his companions, who were convicted.

In consequence of these convictions Blake claimed his liberty, and part of the reward allowed by government; but he was informed by the Court that he had no right to either, because he was not a voluntary evidence; since, so far from having surrendered, he made an obstinate resistance, and was much wounded before he was taken; and, therefore, he must find security for his good behaviour, or be transported.

Not being able to give the requisite security, he was lodged in Wood

Street Compter, where he remained a considerable time, during which period Jonathan Wild allowed him three shillings and sixpence a week. At length he prevailed on two gardeners to be his bail; but the Court at the Old Bailey hesitating to take their security, they went before Sir John Fryer, who took their recognisance for Blake's good behaviour for seven years. A gentleman, who happened to be present at Sir John's, asked how long it might be before Blake would appear again at the Old Bailey: to which another gentleman answered, 'Three sessions;' and he happened to be perfectly right in his conjecture.

Blake had no sooner obtained his liberty than he was concerned in several robberies with Jack Sheppard, and particularly that for which the two brothers, Brightwell, were tried. The footpad robberies and burglaries they committed were very numerous; but the fact for which Blake suffered was the robbery of Mr. Kneebone, as will appear by the following account:

At the Old Bailey sessions, in October, 1724, Joseph Blake, otherwise Blueskin, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, value 36*l.* and other goods. The prosecutor having sworn that the bars of his cellar-window were cut, and that the cellar-door, which had been bolted and padlocked, was broke open, he acquainted Jonathan Wild with what had happened, who went to Blake's lodgings, with two other persons; but Blake refusing to open the door, it was broke open by Quilt Arnold, one of Wild's men.

On this Blake drew a penknife, and swore he would kill the first

man that entered; in answer to which Arnold said, 'Then I am the first man, and Mr. Wild is not far behind; and, if you don't deliver your penknife immediately, I will chop your arm off.' Hereupon the prisoner dropped the knife; and, Wild entering, he was taken into custody.

As the parties were conveying Blake to Newgate, they came by the house of the prosecutor; on which Wild said to the prisoner, 'There's the ken;' and the latter replied, 'Say no more of that, Mr. Wild, for I know I am a dead man; but, what I fear is, that I shall afterwards be carried to Surgeons' Hall, and anatomized:' to which Wild replied, 'No, I'll take care to prevent that, for I'll give you a coffin.'

William Field, who was evidence on the trial, swore that the robbery was committed by Blake, Sheppard, and himself; and the jury brought in a verdict of guilty.

As soon as the verdict was given, Blake addressed the Court in the following terms:—'On Wednesday morning last, Jonathan Wild said to Simon Jacobs,* "I believe you will not bring 40*l.* this time: I wish Joe (meaning me) was in your case; but I'll do my endeavour to bring you off as a single felon." And then, turning to me, he said, "I believe you must die—I'll send you a good book or two, and provide you a coffin, and you shall not be anatomized."'

Wild was to have been an evidence against this malefactor; but, going to visit him in the bail dock, previous to his trial, Blake suddenly drew a clasped penknife, with which he cut Jonathan's throat, which prevented his giving evidence; but as the knife was blunt, the wound,

though dangerous, did not prove mortal; and we shall see that Jonathan was preserved for a different fate.

While under sentence of death, Blake did not show a concern proportioned to his calamitous situation. When asked if he was advised to commit the violence on Wild, he said, No; but that a sudden thought entered his mind; or he would have provided a knife, which would have cut off his head at once.

On the nearer approach of death, he appeared still less concerned; and it was thought that his mind was chiefly bent on meditating means of escaping; but, seeing no prospect of getting away, he took to drinking, which he continued even to the day of his death; for he was observed to be intoxicated, even while he was under the gallows.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of November, 1723.

This malefactor appears to have been a thief almost from his cradle: his habits of vice increased with his growing years, till at length he died, in a most ignominious manner, a victim to the violated laws of his country. Examples have generally more weight than precepts; from that of Blake, who became vicious at so early a period, notwithstanding the care his parents took to give him a good education, young people should learn the duty of gratitude to those parents who are kind and thoughtful enough to lay the foundation of their future happiness by proper instructions in their youth.

The advantages of early piety likewise become conspicuous from the fate of those who neglect religion in the early part of life.

* Jacobs was then a prisoner, but afterwards transported.



Sheppard, after escaping from Newgate, persuades a Shoemaker to knock his Irons off.

JOHN SHEPPARD,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

JOHN SHEPPARD was born in Spitalfields, in the year 1702. His father, who was a carpenter, bore the character of an honest man; yet he had another son, named Thomas, who, as well as Jack, turned out a thief.

The father dying while the boys were very young, they were left to the care of the mother, who placed Jack at a school in Bishopsgate Street, where he remained two years, and was then put apprentice to a carpenter. He behaved with decency in this place for about four years, when, frequenting the Black Lion alehouse, in Drury Lane, he became acquainted with some abandoned women, among whom the principal was Elizabeth Lyon,

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otherwise called Edgworth Bess, from the town of Edgworth, where she was born.

While he continued to work as a carpenter, he often committed robberies in the houses where he was employed, stealing tankards, spoons, and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Bess; but, not being suspected of having committed these robberies, he at length resolved to commence housebreaker.

Exclusive of Edgworth Bess, he was acquainted with a woman named Maggot, who persuaded him to rob the house of Mr. Bains, a piece broker, in White Horse Yard; and Jack, having brought away a piece of fustian from thence, which he deposited in his trunk, went af-

forwards at midnight, and, taking the bars out of the cellar-window, entered, and stole goods and money to the amount of 22*l.* which he carried to Maggot.

As Sheppard did not go home that night, nor the following day, his master suspected that he had made bad connexions, and, searching his trunk, found the piece of fustian that had been stolen; but Sheppard, hearing of this, broke open his master's house in the night, and carried off the fustian, lest it should be brought in evidence against him.

Sheppard's master sending intelligence to Mr. Bains of what had happened, the latter looked over his goods, and, missing such a piece of fustian as had been described to him, suspected that Sheppard must have been the robber, and determined to have him taken into custody; but Jack, hearing of the affair, went to him, and threatened a prosecution for scandal, alleging that he had received the piece of fustian from his mother, who bought it for him in Spitalfields. The mother, with a view to screen her son, declared that what he had asserted was true, though she could not point out the place where she had made the purchase. Though this story was not credited, Mr. Bains did not take any farther steps in the affair.

Sheppard's master seemed willing to think well of him, and he remained some time longer in the family; but, after associating himself with the worst of company, and frequently staying out the whole night, his master and he quarrelled, and the headstrong youth totally absconded in the last year of his apprenticeship, and became connected with a set of villains of Jonathan Wild's gang.

Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the easier commission of robbery; and, being employed to assist in repairing the house of a gentleman in May Fair, he took an opportunity of carrying off a sum of money, a quantity of plate, some gold rings, and four suits of clothes.

Not long after this Edgworth Bass was apprehended, and lodged in the round-house of the parish of St. Giles's, where Sheppard went to visit her, and the bundle upon which to admit him, he knocked him down, broke open the door, and carried her off in triumph; an exploit which acquired him a high degree of credit with the women of abandoned character.

In the month of August, 1722, Thomas Sheppard, the brother of Jack, was indicted at the Old Bailey for two petty offences, and, being convicted, was burnt in the hand. Soon after his discharge, he prevailed on Jack to lead him forty shillings, and take him as a partner in his robberies. The first act they committed in concert was the robbing of a public house in Southwark, whence they carried off some money and wearing apparel; but Jack permitted his brother to reap the whole advantage of this booty.

Not long after this, the brothers, in conjunction with Edgworth Bass, broke open the shop of Mrs. Cook, a linen-draper in Clare Market, and carried off goods to the value of 55*l.*; and in less than a fortnight afterwards stole some articles from the house of Mr. Phillips, in Drury Lane.

Tom Sheppard, going to sell some of the goods stolen at Mrs. Cook's, was apprehended, and committed to Newgate; when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence,

he impeached his brother and Edgworth Bess; but they were sought for in vain.

At length James Sykes, otherwise called Hell and Fury, one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St. Giles's, enticed him into a public house, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him; and, while they were drinking, Sykes sent for a constable, who took Jack into custody, and carried him before a magistrate, who, after a short examination, sent him into St. Giles's round-house; but he broke through the roof of that place, and made his escape in the night.

Within a short time after this, as Sheppard and an associate, named Benson, were crossing Leicester Fields, the latter endeavoured to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch; but, failing in the attempt, the gentleman called out 'A pick-pocket!' on which Sheppard was taken, and lodged in St. Ann's round-house, where he was visited by Edgworth Bess, who was detained on suspicion of being one of his accomplices.

On the following day they were carried before a magistrate; and some persons appearing who charged them with felonies, they were committed to the new prison; and, as they passed for husband and wife, they were permitted to lodge together in a room known by the name of Newgate ward.

Sheppard being visited by several of his acquaintance, some of them furnished him with implements to make his escape; and, early in the morning, a few days after his commitment, he filed off his fetters, and, having made a hole in the wall, he took an iron bar and a wooden one out of the window; but, as the height from which he was to descend was twenty-five feet, he tied a blan-

ket and sheet together, and, making one of them fast to a bar in the window, Edgworth Bess first descended, and Jack followed her.

Having reached the yard, they had still a wall of twenty-two feet high to scale; but, climbing up by the locks and bolts of the great gate, they got quite out of the prison, and effected a perfect escape.

Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lower order of people by this exploit; and the thieves of St. Giles's courted his company. Among the rest, one Charles Grace, a cooper, begged that he would take him as an associate in his robberies, alleging, as a reason for this request, that the girl he kept was so extravagant, that he could not support her on the profits of his own thefts. Sheppard did not hesitate to make this new connexion; but, at the same time, said that he did not admit of the partnership with a view to any advantage to himself, but that Grace might reap the profits of their depredations.

Sheppard and Grace making acquaintance with Anthony Lamb, an apprentice to a mathematical instrument maker, near St. Clement's Church, it was agreed to rob a gentleman who lodged with Lamb's master, and, at two o'clock in the morning, Lamb let in the other villains, who stole money and effects to a large amount. They put the door open, and Lamb went to bed, to prevent suspicion; but, notwithstanding this, his master did suspect him, and, having him taken into custody, he confessed the whole affair before a magistrate; and, being committed to Newgate, he was tried, convicted, and received sentence to be transported.

On the same day Thomas Sheppard, the brother of Jack, was indicted for breaking open the dwell-

ing-house of Mary Cook, and stealing her goods; and, being convicted, was sentenced to transportation.

Jack Sheppard not being in custody, he and Blueskin committed a number of daring robberies, and sometimes disposed of the stolen goods to William Field. Jack used to say that Field wanted courage to commit a robbery, though he was as great a villain as ever existed.

Sheppard seems to have thought that courage consisted in villainy; and, if this were the case, Field had an undoubted claim to the character of a man of courage; for in October, 1721, he was tried upon four indictments for felony and burglary; and he was an accomplice in a variety of robberies. He was likewise an evidence against one of his associates on another occasion.

Sheppard and Blueskin hired a stable near the Horse Ferry, Westminster, in which they deposited their stolen goods, till they could dispose of them to the best advantage; and in this place they put the woollen cloth which was stolen from Mr. Kneebone; for Sheppard was concerned in this robbery, and at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in August, 1724, he was indicted for several offences; and, among the rest, for breaking and entering the house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, and other articles; and, being capitally convicted, received sentence of death.

We must now go back to observe, that Sheppard and Blueskin, having applied to Field to look at these goods, and procure a customer for them, he promised to do so; nor was he worse than his word, for in the night he broke open their warehouse, and stole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information against them to Jonathan

Wild, in consequence of which they were apprehended.

On Monday, the 30th of August, 1724, a warrant was sent to Newgate for the execution of Sheppard, with other convicts under sentence of death.

It is proper to observe, that in the old gaol of Newgate there was, within the lodge, a hatch, with large iron spikes, which hatch opened into a dark passage, whence there were a few steps into the condemned hold. The prisoners being permitted to come down to the hatch to speak with their friends, Sheppard, having been supplied with instruments, took an opportunity of cutting one of the spikes in such a manner that it might be easily broken off.

On the evening of the above-mentioned 30th of August, two women of Sheppard's acquaintance going to visit him, he broke off the spike, and, thrusting his head and shoulders through the space, the women pulled him down, and he effected his escape, notwithstanding some of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge.

On the day after his escape he went to a public house in Spitalfields, whence he sent for an old acquaintance, one Page, a butcher in Clare Market, and advised with him how to render his escape effectual for his future preservation. After deliberating on the matter, they agreed to go to Warnden, in Northamptonshire, where Page had some relations; and they had no sooner resolved than they made the journey; but Page's relations treating him with indifference, they returned to London, after being absent only about a week.

On the night after their return, as they were walking up Fleet Street together, they saw a watchmaker's shop open, and only a boy attend-

ing: having passed the shop, they turned back, and Sheppard, driving his hand through the window, stole three watches, with which they made their escape.

Some of Sheppard's old acquaintance informing him that strict search was making after him, he and Page retired to Finchley, in hope of lying there concealed till the diligence of the gaol-keepers should relax: but the keepers of Newgate, having intelligence of their retreat, took Sheppard into custody, and conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Such steps were now taken as were thought would be effectual to prevent his future escape. He was put into a strong room called the Castle, handcuffed, loaded with a heavy pair of irons, and chained to a staple fixed in the floor.

The curiosity of the public being greatly excited by his former escape, he was visited by great numbers of people of all ranks, and scarce any one left him without making him a present in money; though he would have more gladly received a file, a hammer, or a chisel; but the utmost care was taken that none of his visitors should furnish him with such implements.

Sheppard, nevertheless, was continually employing his thoughts on the means of another escape. On the 14th of October the sessions began at the Old Bailey, and the keepers being much engaged in attending the Court, he thought they would have little time to visit him; and, therefore, the present juncture would be the most favorable to carry his plan into execution.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the following day one of the keepers carried him his dinner; and having carefully examined his irons, and finding them fast, he left him for the day.

Some days before this Jack had

found a small nail in the room, with which he could, at pleasure, unlock the padlock that went from the chain to the staple in the floor; and, in his own account of this transaction, he says, 'that he was frequently about the room, and had several times slept on the barracks, when the keepers imagined he had not been out of his chair.'

The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He first took off his handcuffs, and then opened the padlock that fastened the chain to the staple. He next, by mere strength, twisted asunder a small link of the chain between his legs, and then, drawing up his fetters as high as he could, he made them fast with his garters.

He then attempted to get up the chimney; but had not advanced far before he was stopped by an iron bar that went across it; on which he descended, and with a piece of his broken chain picked out the mortar, and moving a small stone or two, about six feet from the floor, he got out the iron bar, which was three feet long, and an inch square, and proved very serviceable to him in his future proceedings.

He in a short time made such a breach as to enable him to get into the red room over the castle; and here he found a large nail, which he made use of in his farther operations. It was seven years since the door of this red room had been opened; but Sheppard wrenched off the lock in less than seven minutes, and got into the passage leading to the chapel. In this place he found a door which was bolted on the opposite side; but, making a hole through the wall, he pushed the bolt back, and opened it.

Arriving at the door of the chapel, he broke off one of the iron spikes, which keeping for his farther use, he got into an entry between the

chapel and the lower leads. The door of this entry was remarkably strong, and fastened with a large lock; and night now coming on, Sheppard was obliged to work in the dark. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, he in half an hour forced open the box of the lock, and opened the door; but this led him to another room still more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked; however, he wrenched the fillet from the main post of the door, and the box and staples came off with it.

It was now eight o'clock, and Sheppard found no farther obstruction to his proceedings; for he had only one other door to open, which, being bolted on the inside, was opened without difficulty, and he got over a wall to the upper leads.

His next consideration was how he should descend with the greatest safety; accordingly he found that the most convenient place for him to alight on would be the turner's house adjoining to Newgate; but, as it would have been dangerous to have jumped to such a depth, he went back for a blanket with which he used to cover himself when he slept in the castle, and endeavoured to fasten his stocking to the blanket to ease his descent; but, not being able to do so, he was compelled to use the blanket alone: wherefore he made it fast to the wall of Newgate with the spike that he took out of the chapel; and, sliding down, dropped on the turner's leads just as the clock was striking nine. It happened that the door of the garret next the turner's leads was open, on which he stole softly down two pair of stairs, and heard some company talking in a room. His irons clinking, a woman cried, 'What noise is that?' and a man answered, '*Perhaps the dog or cat.*'

Sheppard, who was exceedingly

fatigued, returned to the garret, and laid down for more than two hours; after which he crept down once more as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking leave of the family, and saw the maid light him down stairs. As soon as the maid returned, he resolved to venture all hazards; but, in stealing down the stairs, he stumbled against a chamber door; but, instantly recovering himself, he got into the street.

By this time it was after twelve o'clock, and, passing by the watch-house of St. Sepulchre, he bid the watchman good morrow, and, going up Holborn, he turned down Gray's Inn Lane, and about two in the morning got into the fields near Tottenham Court, where he took shelter in a place that had been a cow-house, and slept soundly about three hours. His fetters being still on, his legs were greatly bruised and swelled, and he dreaded the approach of daylight, lest he should be discovered. He had now above forty shillings in his possession, but was afraid to send to any person for assistance.

At seven in the morning it began to rain hard, and continued to do so all day, so that no person appeared in the fields; and during this melancholy day he would, to use his own expression, have given his right hand for 'a hammer, a chisel, and a punch.' Night coming on, and being pressed by hunger, he ventured to a little chandler's shop in Tottenham Court Road, where he got a supply of bread and cheese, small beer, and some other necessities, hiding his irons with a long great coat. He asked the woman of the house for a hammer; but she had no such utensil; on which he retired to the cow-house, where he slept that night, and remained all the next day.

At night he went again to the chandler's shop, supplied himself with provisions, and returned to his hiding-place. At six the next morning, which was Sunday, he began to beat the basils of his fetters with a stone, in order to bring them to an oval form, to slip his heels through. In the afternoon, the master of the cow-house coming thither, and seeing his irons, said, 'For God's sake, who are you?' Sheppard said he was an unfortunate young fellow, who having had a bastard child sworn to him, and not being able to give security to the parish for its support, he had been sent to Bridewell, from whence he had made his escape. The man said that if that was all it did not much signify; but he did not care how soon he was gone, for he did not like his looks.

Soon after he was gone Sheppard saw a journeyman shoemaker, to whom he told the same story of the bastard child, and offered him twenty shillings if he would procure him a smith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, procured them accordingly, and assisted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was completed by five o'clock in the evening.

When night came on, our adventurer tied a handkerchief about his head, tore his woollen cap in several places, and likewise tore his coat and stockings, so as to have the appearance of a beggar; and in this condition he went to a cellar near Charing Cross, where he supped on roasted veal, and listened to the conversation of the company, all of whom were talking of the escape of Sheppard.

On the Monday he sheltered himself at a public house of little trade in Rupert Street, and, conversing

with the landlady about Sheppard, he told her it was impossible for him to get out of the kingdom, and the keepers would certainly have him again in a few days; on which the woman wished that a curse might fall on those who should betray him. Remaining in this place till evening, he went into the Haymarket, where a crowd of people were surrounding two ballad-singers, and listening to a song made on his adventures and escape.

On the next day he hired a garret in Newport Market, and soon afterwards, dressing himself like a porter, he went to Blackfriars, to the house of Mr. Applebee, printer of the dying speeches, and delivered a letter, in which he ridiculed the printer and the Ordinary of Newgate, and enclosed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate.

Some nights after this he broke open the shop of Mr. Rawlins, a pawnbroker, in Drury Lane, where he stole a sword, a suit of wearing apparel, some snuff-boxes, rings, watches, and other effects to a considerable amount. Determining to make the appearance of a gentleman among his old acquaintance in Drury Lane and Clare Market, he dressed himself in a suit of black and a tie-wig, wore a ruffled shirt, a silver-hilted sword, a diamond ring, and a gold watch, though he knew that diligent search was making after him at that very time.

On the 31st of October he dined with two women at a public house in Newgate Street, and about four in the afternoon they all passed under Newgate in a hackney-coach, having first drawn up the blinds. Going in the evening to a public house in Maypole Alley, Clare Market, Sheppard sent for his mother, and treated her with brandy, when the poor woman

dropped on her knees, and begged he would immediately quit the kingdom, which he promised to do, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Being now grown valiant through an excess of liquor, he wandered from alehouses to gin-shops in the neighbourhood till near twelve o'clock at night, when he was apprehended in consequence of the information of an alehouse boy, who knew him. When taken into custody he was quite senseless, from the quantity and variety of liquors he had drank, and was conveyed to Newgate in a coach, without being capable of making the least resistance, though he had then two pistols in his possession.

His fame was now so much increased by his exploits that he was visited by great numbers of people, and some of them of the highest quality. He endeavoured to divert them by a recital of the particulars of many robberies in which he had been concerned; and when any nobleman came to see him, he never failed to beg that he would intercede with the king for a pardon, to which he thought that his singular dexterity gave him some pretensions.

Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the Court of King's Bench on the 10th of November; and the record of his conviction being read, and an affidavit being made that he was the same John Sheppard mentioned in the record, sentence of death was passed on him by Mr. Justice Powis, and a rule of Court was made for his execution on the Monday following.

He regularly attended the prayers in the chapel; but, though he behaved with decency there, he affected mirth before he went thither, and endeavoured to prevent any de-

gave of seriousness among the other prisoners on their return.

Even when the day of execution arrived, Sheppard did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding justice; for, having been furnished with a penknife, he put it in his pocket, with a view, when the melancholy procession came opposite Little Turnstile, to have cut the cord that bound his arms, and, throwing himself out of the cart among the crowd, to have run through the narrow passage, where the sheriffs' officers could not follow on horseback; and he had no doubt but he should make his escape by the assistance of the mob.

It is not impossible but this scheme might have succeeded ; but, before Sheppard left the press-yard, one Watson, an officer, searching his pockets, found the knife, and was cut with it so as to occasion a great effusion of blood.

Sheppard had yet a farther view to his preservation even after execution ; for he desired his acquaintance to put him into a warm bed as soon as he should be cut down, and to try to open a vein, which he had been told would restore him to life.

He behaved with great decency at the place of execution, and confessed the having committed two robberies, for which he had been tried and acquitted. He suffered in the 23d year of his age, on the 16th of November, 1724. He died with difficulty, and was much pitted by the surrounding multitude. When he was cut down, his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public house in Long Acre, whence he was removed in the evening, and buried in the churchyard of St. Martin in the Fields.

No public robber ever obtained more notoriety; no violator of the

law had more hair-breadth escapes than Jack Sheppard. He found employment for the bar, the pulpit, and the stage. The arts, too, were busied in handing to posterity a memoranda for us never to follow the example of Jack Sheppard.

Sir James Thornhill,* the first painter of the day, painted his portrait, from which engravings in mezzotinto were made, and the few still in preservation are objects of curiosity. On this subject the following lines were written at the time:

'Thornhill, 'tis thine to gild with fame
Th' obscure, and raise the humble name;
To make the form elude the grave,
And Sheppard from oblivion save.

Tho' life in vain the wretch implores,
An exile on the farthest shores,
Thy pencil brings a kind reprieve,
And bids the dying robber live.

This piece to latest time shall stand,
And show the wonders of thy hand.
Thus former masters grac'd their name,
And gave egregious robbers fame.

Appelles Alexander drew,
Cæsar is to Aurelius due;
Cromwell in Lily's works doth shine,
And Sheppard, Thornhill, lives in thine.'

He was, for a considerable time, the principal subject of conversation in all ranks of society. Histories of his life issued from the press in a variety of forms. A pantomime entertainment was brought forward at the royal theatre of Drury Lane, called 'Harlequin Sheppard,' wherein his adventures, prison-breakings, and other extraordinary escapes, were represented. Another dramatic work was published, as a farce of three acts, called 'The Prison Breaker; or, The Adventures of John Sheppard;' and a part of it, with songs, catches, and glees added, was performed at Bartholomew Fair, under the title of 'The Quaker's Opera.' The clergy also preached his adventures; and the following is part of a sermon preached on the occasion, warning people against following the steps of this notorious character:

'Now, my beloved, what a melancholy consideration it is that men should show so much regard for the preservation of a poor perishing body, that can remain at most but

* This celebrated painter, whilst decorating the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, nearly fell a victim to his zeal in that undertaking. One day, when pursuing his task on the scaffold erected round the dome for that purpose, he kept walking backwards, surveying the effect of his work, until he had nearly approached the edge, from which another step would have precipitated him. At this instant his servant, who perceived the danger his master was in, with a wonderful presence of mind seized a pot of colour, and threw it over the painting. This caused Sir James to rush forward for the preservation of his work, and he was thus saved from being dashed to pieces, which, but for this timely intervention, must have been his fate. This eminent man painted the whole of the cupola of St. Paul's, and also the halls of Greenwich Hospital and Blenheim. He was born in 1673, and was originally a house-painter, but afterwards applied himself to historical subjects, and equalled the best painters of his time. In 1719 he was appointed Historical Painter to George I. and, shortly afterwards, was created a Knight. He was employed in several extensive works, for which he was in general very inadequately paid; and, at times, even found it difficult to obtain the stipulated price. His demands were contested at Greenwich Hospital, although he only received 25s. a square yard: about the same time a foreigner, for doing less work at Montague House, received 2000*l.* for his work, besides 500*l.* for his diet. For St. Paul's he received 40s. a square yard. He also decorated More Park, but was obliged to sue Mr. Styles for it; he, however, not only recovered 3,500*l.* the sum agreed to be paid him, but 500*l.* more for decorations about the house. Notwithstanding these difficulties, he acquired a considerable fortune, and was several years in Parliament; he was also a Fellow of the Royal Society. His genius was equally happy in history, allegory, landscape, and architecture; he even practised the last sciences as a man of business, and built several houses. He died in 1734, in the same place where he was born. He left a son, who followed his father's profession; and a daughter, who married the celebrated Hogarth.

a few years, and at the same time be so unaccountably negligent of a precious soul, which must continue to the age of eternity! O, what care, what pains, what diligence, and what contrivances, are made use of for, and laid out upon, these frail and tottering tabernacles of clay: when, alas! the nobler part of us is allowed so very small a share of our concern, that we scarce will give ourselves the trouble of bestowing a thought upon it!

'We have a remarkable instance of this in a notorious malefactor, well known by the name of Jack Sheppard! What amazing difficulties has he overcome, what astonishing

things has he performed, for the sake of a stinking miserable carcass, hardly worth hanging! How dexterously did he pick the padlock of his chain with a crooked nail! how manfully did he burst his fetters asunder, climb up the chimney, wrench out an iron bar, break his way through a stone wall, and make the strong doors of a dark entry fly before him, till he got upon the leads of the prison; and then, fixing a blanket to the wall with a spike he stole out of the chapel, how intrepidly did he descend to the top of the turner's house, and how cautiously pass down the stair, and make his escape at the street-door!'

EDWARD BURNWORTH, WILLIAM BLEWITT, EMANUEL DICKENSON, THOMAS BERRY, JOHN LEGEE, JOHN HIGGS, AND ——— MARJORAM,

HUNG FOR MURDER.

EDWARD BURNWORTH, the captain of this gang, was born in Moorfields, London. His father was a painter, and placed his son apprentice to a buckle-maker in Grub Street; in which situation he did not remain long, having given himself up to the company of loose and disorderly young men. His initiation into vicious habits took place at an infamous place of low diversion, called the Ring, near his father's place of residence, and where, it appears, he excelled in the vulgar art of cudgel-playing.

He soon commenced pickpocket, and through the gradations in villainy, which we have already described, became a general thief. As a pickpocket, he frequented every public place in and near the city. He used to steal snuff-boxes, watches, handkerchiefs, pocket-books, &c. At length he was apprehended, and lodged in the new prison, from which he found means to escape, and renewed his former occupation, but

with more circumspection, usually lounging about the fields near London during the day-time, and returning to town at night in search of prey. He was a remarkably daring villain, and constantly carried pistols about him, to aid him to make a readier escape in case of detection.

Going into a public house in the Old Bailey, the landlord told him that Quilt Arnold, one of Jonathan Wild's men, who had been seeking him some days, was then in the house. Hereupon Burnworth went backwards to a room where Arnold was sitting alone, and, presenting a pistol, upbraided him for endeavouring to injure his old acquaintance, Arnold having been a brother thief. Burnworth then called for a glass of brandy, and, putting some gunpowder in it, compelled the other to drink it on his knees, and swear that he would never seek for him in future. He was once whipped at the cart's tail for a theft.

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William Blewitt, another of this gang, was the son of poor parents near Cripplegate, who apprenticed him to a glover; but, before he had served above three years of his time, he associated with ill company, and became a pickpocket and house-breaker.

Having been apprehended and lodged in Newgate, he was tried for an offence, of which he was convicted, and sentenced to be transported for seven years; in consequence of which he was put on board a ship in the river, in company with several other felons. Some of these had procured saws and files to be concealed in cakes of gingerbread, and by means of these instruments they hoped to effect their escape before the ship sailed to any distance.

Blewitt, having discovered their intention, disclosed it to the captain of the vessel, who seized the implements, and gave Blewitt his liberty, as a reward for the information.* But he was no sooner at large than he returned to his old practices, in consequence of which he was apprehended, and committed to Newgate. At the following sessions he was indicted for returning from transportation; and, being convicted, received sentence of death; but he pleaded the service he had done by preventing the escape of the prisoners in the river; on which he was reprieved till the return of the vessel from America; when his allegations being found to be true, he was pardoned, on the condition of transporting himself. This, however, he neglected to do; but got into the company of Burnworth, Berry, Legee, and Higga, the three last having been thieves from their infancy.

At this time there was a gin-shop kept in the Mint, Southwark, by a man named Ball, whose character was similar to that of Jonathan Wild. Ball, who had been himself a thief, threatened that he would cause Burnworth to be taken into custody. The latter, hearing of this circumstance, resolved on the murder of Ball, and engaged his accomplices in the execution of the plan.

Previous to this, while they were drinking at Islington, Burnworth proposed to break open and rob the house of a magistrate in Clerkenwell, who had distinguished himself by his diligence in causing thieves to be apprehended; and this robbery was proposed more from motives of revenge than of gain. They soon executed their design, and robbed the house of what they thought a large quantity of plate, which they carried to Copenhagen House, at that time a public house of ill fame; but, on examining the supposed treasure, they discovered that it was only brass covered with silver, on which they threw it into the New River.

The following day, while they were carousing, one of their associates came and informed them that some peace-officers were waiting for them in Chick Lane, a place they greatly frequented. Thus informed, they kept in a body, and concealed their pistols and cutlasses under their clothes.

On the approach of evening they ventured towards London, and, having got as far as Turnmill Street, the keeper of Clerkenwell Bridewell, happening to see them, called to Burnworth, and said he wanted to speak with him. Burnworth hesitated; but the other assuring him

* This was assuming a power which was never given to any captain of a vessel.

that he intended no injury, and the thief being confident that his associates would not desert him, swore he did not regard the keeper, whom he advanced to meet with the pistol in his hand, the other rogues waiting on the opposite side of the street, armed with cutlasses and pistols.

This singular spectacle attracting the attention of the populace, a considerable crowd soon gathered round them, on which Burnworth joined his companions, who kept together, and, facing the people, retired in a body, presenting their pistols, and swearing that they would fire on any one who should offer to molest them.

Thus they retreated as far as Battle Bridge, and then, making a circle round the fields, entered London by a different avenue, and, going to Blackfriars, took a boat, and crossed the Thames. Having landed at the Bankside, Southwark, they went to a place called the Music House, which was at that time much frequented by people of dissolute characters. Here they continued drinking some time, and then went into St. George's Fields, where Burnworth re-proposed the murder of Ball, on account of the threat that he had issued.

All the company readily agreed, except Higgs, who said he would have no concern in murder; however, the others forced him with them: it was dark when they arrived at Ball's house, and Higgs waited at the door while the rest went in.

Ball's wife told them he was at an alehouse in the neighbourhood, but she would go and call him, which she accordingly did: he no sooner got to the door of his own house than Burnworth seized him and dragged him in, reproaching him with treachery, in intending to betray his old acquaintance.

As these desperadoes were armed with pistols, Ball, trembling with just apprehension for his life, and dropping on his knees, earnestly entreated that they would not murder him; but Burnworth, swearing that he should never obtain the reward for betraying him, shot him dead on the spot, while thus begging for his life.

The murder was no sooner perpetrated than they all sallied forth into the street; when Blewitt, supposing that the report of the pistol might alarm the neighbours, fired another into the air, saying, 'We are now safe in town, and there is no fear of rogues;' thereby intimating that they had come out of the country, whither they had taken pistols for their protection.

Higgs had left his companions as soon as the murder was committed; but, on their way to the Falcon Stairs, where they intended to take a boat, they met with him again, when Burnworth proposed to murder him, as they had done Ball; but Marjoram, an old acquaintance, whom they had just met, interceded for his life, which was granted, on condition that, for the future, he should behave with greater courage.

They now crossed the Thames, and went to the Boar's Head tavern, in Smithfield, where, not being known, they were under no apprehension of detection. Here they remained till ten at night, and then parted in different gangs, to commit separate robberies.

Some days after this, Dickenson, Berry, and Blewitt, having obtained a large booty, went to Harwich, and sailed in the packet-boat to Holland.

In the mean time Higgs went to Portsmouth, and entered on board the Monmouth man of war; but his brother, happening to meet the

mate of a ship in London, gave him a letter to deliver to him. The mate, going accidentally into a public house in Smithfield, heard the name of Higgs mentioned by some people who were talking of the murder, among whom was a watchman, whom the mate told that he had a letter to carry to one Higgs. On this the watchman went to the under secretary of state, and mentioned what he had heard and suspected. Hereupon the watchman, and two of the king's messengers, being dispatched to Portsmouth, Higgs was taken into custody, brought to London, and committed to Newgate.

Still Burnworth, and the rest of his associates, continued to defy the laws in the most open manner. Having stopped the Earl of Harborough's chair, during broad daylight, in Piccadilly, one of the chairmen pulled out a pole of the chair, and knocked down one of the villains, while the earl came out, drew his sword, and put the rest to flight; but not before they had raised their wounded companion, whom they took off with them.

The number of daring robberies which were now daily committed were so alarming, that the king issued a proclamation for apprehending the offenders, and a pardon was offered to any one who would impeach his accomplices, except Burnworth, who was justly considered as the principal of the gang.

Marjoram happened to be drinking at a public house in Whitecross Street one night, when a gentleman came in and read the royal proclamation. The company present knew nothing of Marjoram; but he, apprehending that some of his accomplices would become an evidence if he did not, applied to a constable in Smithfield, and desired him to take him before the lord mayor.

By this time the evening was far advanced, on which Marjoram was lodged in the Compter for that night, and, being taken to Guildhall the next day, he discovered all the circumstances that he knew, and informed the lord mayor that Legee lodged in Whitecross Street: he was almost immediately apprehended, and committed to Newgate the same day.

The circumstance of Marjoram having turned evidence being now the public topic, John Barton, a fellow who had been some time connected with Burnworth and his gang, provided a loaded pistol, and; placing himself near Goldsmiths' Hall, took an opportunity, when the officers were conducting Marjoram before the lord mayor, to fire at him; but Marjoram, observing him advancing, stooped down, so that the ball grazed his back only. The suddenness of this action, and the surprise it occasioned, gave Barton an opportunity of effecting his escape.

About this time one Wilson, who had likewise belonged to the gang, quitted London; but, being apprehended about two years afterwards, he was hanged at Kingston, in Surrey. In the mean time Burnworth continued at large, committing depredations on the public, and appearing openly in the streets, notwithstanding the proclamations issued to apprehend him.

He broke open the house of a distiller in Clare Market, and carried off a great number of bank notes; in consequence of which another proclamation was issued, and three hundred pounds were offered for taking him into custody: notwithstanding he still appeared at large, and gave the following among other proofs of his audacity. Sitting down at the door of a public house in Holbourn, where he was well

known, he called for a pint of beer, and drank it, holding a pistol in his hand, by way of protection: he then paid for his beer, and went off with the greatest apparent unconcern.

At this time he kept company with two infamous women, one of whom was the wife of a man named Leonard, who, having belonged to the gang, thought to recommend himself to mercy by the apprehension of Burnworth. Having told his wife what he intended, she informed some magistrates of the proposed plan, and they sent six men to assist in carrying it into execution.

Shrove-Tuesday being the day appointed, the men waited at a public house till they should receive a hint to proceed. About six in the evening Burnworth went to the lodgings of the women, to which there was a back door that opened into a yard. It was proposed to have pancakes for supper, and, while one of the women was frying them, the other went to the public house for some beer, and on her return pretended to bolt the door, but designedly missed the staple: at that moment six men rushed in, and seized Burnworth before he had time to make any resistance, though he had a pistol in the pocket of his great coat.

Being carried before three magistrates, he was committed to Newgate; but his accomplices were so infamously daring as to attempt the murder of the woman who had occasioned his apprehension: a pistol was fired at her as she was entering the door of her own house, which being communicated to the magistrates, constables were appointed to watch nightly for her protection, till the desperadoes gave over their attempts.

Burnworth, while in Newgate,

projected the following scheme of escape: having been furnished with an iron crow, he engaged some of the prisoners, who assisted him in pulling stones out of the wall, while others sung psalms, that the keepers might not hear what they were doing.

On the day following this transaction, which was carried on during the night, five condemned criminals were to be executed; but, when the gaolers came to take them out, there was such an immense quantity of stones and rubbish to remove, that it was two o'clock in the afternoon before the criminals could be got out of their cells.

This scheme of Burnworth's occasioned his closer confinement. He was removed into a room, known by the name of the Bilboa, and loaded with a pair of the heaviest irons in the prison: but he intended to have made his escape even from this place; and, being furnished with files and saws from some of his acquaintance, he worked his way through a wall into a room in which were some women prisoners, one of whom acquainting the keeper with what had happened, Burnworth was chained to the floor of the condemned hold.

Application was made to the secretary of state to take measures for the apprehension of Berry, Dickenson, and Blewitt, who had gone over to Holland; and hereupon instructions were sent to the English ambassador at the Hague, empowering him to request of the States General that the offenders might be delivered up to justice, if found any where within their jurisdiction.

The ambassador, on receiving the necessary instructions, made the application, and orders were issued accordingly; in consequence of which Blewitt was apprehended in

Rotterdam, but Dickenson and Berry had taken refuge on board a ship at the Brill. Blewitt was lodged in the state-house prison, and then the officers who took him went immediately on board the ship, and seized his two accomplices, whom they brought to the same place of confinement.

They were chained to the floor till the English ambassador requested permission to send them home, which being readily obtained, they were guarded to the packet-boat by a party of soldiers, and were chained together as soon as they were put on board. When they reached the Nore they were met by two of the king's messengers, who conducted them up the river.

On the arrival of the vessel they were put into a boat opposite the Tower, which was guarded by three other boats, in each of which were a corporal and several soldiers. In this manner they were conducted to Westminster, where they were examined by two magistrates, who committed them to Newgate, to which they were escorted by a party of the foot-guards.

On sight of Burnworth, they seemed to pity his situation, while he, in a hardened manner, expressed his happiness at their safe arrival from Holland.

On the approach of the ensuing assizes for the county of Surrey, they were handcuffed, put into a waggon, and in this manner a party of dragoons conducted them to Kingston. Their insolence on leaving Newgate was unparalleled: they told the spectators that it would become them to treat gentlemen of their profession with respect, especially as they were going a journey; and likewise said to the dragoons, that they expected to be protected from injury on the road; and dur-

ing their journey they behaved with great indifference, throwing money among the populace, and diverting themselves by seeing them scramble for it.

A boy having picked up a half-penny, one of a handful which Blewitt had thrown among the people, told him that he would keep that halfpenny, and have his name engraved on it, as sure as he would be hanged at Kingston, on which Blewitt gave him a shilling to pay the expense of engraving, and enjoined him to keep his promise, which, it is affirmed, the boy actually did.

On their arrival at Kingston they were put in the prison called the Stockhouse, where they were chained to the floor; and, on the following day, bills of indictment were found against them, and they were brought up for trial before Lord Chief Justice Raymond and Judge Denton; but some articles having been taken from Burnworth when he was apprehended, he refused to plead unless they were restored to him. The judges made use of every argument to prevail on him to plead, but in vain; in consequence of which sentence was passed that he should be pressed to death.

Hereupon he was taken back to the Stockhouse, where he bore the weight of one hundred, three quarters, and two pounds, on his breast.

The high-sheriff, who attended him on this occasion, used every argument to prevail on him to plead, to which he consented, after bearing the weight an hour and three minutes, during great part of which time he endeavoured to kill himself by striking his head against the floor. Being brought into Court, he was tried and convicted with his companions.

They were no sooner convicted

than orders were given for their being chained to the floor; but in this deplorable situation they diverted themselves by recounting some particulars of their robberies to such persons whose curiosity induced them to visit the gaol. Some people wished they would leave an account of their robberies, but Burnworth said the particulars could not be contained in a hundred sheets of paper.

On passing sentence, the learned judge most earnestly entreated them to prepare for another world, as their time in the present must necessarily be short. They begged that their friends might visit them; and this being complied with, files and saws were conveyed to them, to assist them in their escape.

Their plan was to have mixed opium in wine, to have made the keepers sleep; and, if this had taken place, they then proposed to have set fire to some piles of wood near the prison, and in other parts of the town, and to get a considerable distance during the conflagration; but the keepers having listened to their discourse, they were more strictly guarded than before, and their whole scheme rendered abortive.

A short time before their execution Burnworth told one of the keepers that, 'If he did not see him buried in a decent manner, he would meet him after death in a dark entry, and pull off his nose.'

When the day of execution arrived the prisoners were put into a cart, and a company of foot-soldiers escorted them to the fatal tree. On their way Blewitt saw a gentleman named Warwick, and, having obtained permission to speak to him,

most earnestly entreated his pardon for having attempted to shoot him, in consequence of an information which Mr. Warwick had given against him.

Dickenson and Blewitt appeared more penitent than any of the rest. They wept bitterly at the place of execution, and said they hoped their untimely fate would teach young men to avoid such courses as had brought them to their fatal end. They suffered April 12, 1726.

After execution their bodies were brought to the new gaol in Southwark, to be fitted with chains. The bodies of Burnworth and Blewitt were suspended on a gibbet in St. George's Fields, near where the murder was perpetrated. Logee and Higgs were hanged on Patney Common, and Berry and Dickenson on Kennington Common; but representation being made to the people in power that Dickenson's father, when a lieutenant in the army, had died fighting for his country in Flanders, permission was given to his friends to take down and bury the body, after he had hung one day.

Marjoram, the evidence, obtained his liberty, of course, when his accomplices were convicted: but in a few days afterwards he cut the string of a butcher's apron, and ran away with his steel.

Being pursued, he was apprehended, committed, and, being indicted for privately stealing, was convicted, and received sentence of death; but, in consideration of his having been the means of bringing the above-mentioned atrocious offenders to justice, the sentence of death was changed to that of transportation.



Butler, a Thief, discovered under a tub by Jonathan Wild.

JONATHAN WILD,

EXECUTED FOR FELONIOUSLY CONNIVING WITH THIEVES.

Of all the thieves that ever infested London, this man was the most notorious. That eminent vagabond, Bamfylde Moore Carew, was recognised as 'King of the Beggars:' - in like manner may the name and memory of Jonathan Wild be ever held in abhorrence as 'The Prince of Robbers.'

The history of the arts, deceptions, cruelty, and perfidy of this man, have alone filled a volume; and, should he occupy more room in our epitome than may be deemed necessary, we have only to observe, that the whole catalogue of other crimes exposed in this Chronology, centred in one individual, would scarcely produce a parallel with this thief-taker, and most finished thief.

VOL. I.

Jonathan Wild was born at Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, about the year 1682. He was the eldest son of his parents, who, at a proper age, put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he had gained a sufficient knowledge in reading, writing, and accounts, to qualify him for business. His father had intended to bring him up to his own trade; but changed that design, and, at about the age of fifteen, apprenticed him for seven years to a buckle-maker in Birmingham. Upon the expiration of this term he returned to Wolverhampton, married a young woman of good character, and gained a tolerable livelihood by working at his business.

About two years after, in the

course of which time his wife gave birth to a son, he formed the resolution of visiting London, deserted his wife and child, and set out for the metropolis, where he got into employment, and maintained himself by his trade: being, however, of an extravagant disposition, many months had not elapsed after his arrival before he was arrested for debt, and thrown into Wood Street Compter, where he remained upwards of four years. In a pamphlet which he published, and which we shall more particularly mention hereafter, he says, that during his imprisonment 'it was impossible but he must, in some measure, be let into the secrets of the criminals there under confinement, and particularly Mr. Hitchin's management.'

Whilst in the Compter, Wild assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of his fellow-captives, and attended to their accounts of the exploits in which they had been engaged with singular satisfaction. In this prison was a woman named Mary Milliner, who had long been considered as one of the most abandoned prostitutes and pickpockets on the town. After having escaped the punishment due to the variety of felonies of which she had been guilty, she was put under confinement for debt. An intimacy soon commenced between this woman and Wild, and they had no sooner obtained their freedom than they lived under the denomination of man and wife. By their iniquitous practices they quickly obtained a sum of money, which enabled them to open a little public house in Cock Alley, facing Crippllegate church.

Milliner being personally acquainted with most of the depraved characters by whom London and its environs were infested, and perfectly conversant as to the manner of their proceedings, she was con-

sidered by Wild as a most useful companion; and indeed very materially contributed towards rendering him one of the most accomplished proficient in the arts of villainy. He industriously penetrated into the secrets of felons of every description, who resorted in great numbers to his house, in order to dispose of their booties; and they looked upon him with a kind of awe, arising from the consciousness that their lives were at all times in his power.

Wild was at little trouble to dispose of the articles brought to him by thieves at something less than their real value, no law existing at this period for the punishment of the receivers of stolen goods; but the evil increased at length to so enormous a degree, that it was deemed expedient by the legislature to frame a law for its suppression. An act was passed, therefore, consigning such as should be convicted of receiving goods, knowing them to have been stolen, to transportation for the space of fourteen years.

Wild's practices were considerably interrupted by the above-mentioned law; to elude the operation of which, however, he adopted the following plan:—he called a meeting of all the thieves known to him, and observed that, if they carried their booties to such of the paw-brokers as were known to be not much affected by scruples of conscience, they would scarcely receive on the property one-fourth of the real value; and that if they were offered to strangers, either for sale, or by way of deposit, it was a chance of ten to one but the parties offering were rendered amenable to the laws. The most industrious thieves, he said, were now scarcely able to obtain a livelihood, and must either submit to be half starved, or live in great and continual danger

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of Tyburn. He informed them that he had devised a plan for removing the inconveniences under which they laboured, recommended them to follow his advice, and to behave towards him with honour; and concluded by proposing that, when they made prize of any thing, they should deliver it to him, instead of carrying it to the pawnbroker, saying he would *restore the goods to the owners*, by which means greater sums might be raised, while the thieves would remain perfectly secure from detection.

This proposal was received with general approbation, and it was resolved to carry it into immediate execution. All the stolen effects were to be given into the possession of Wild, who soon appointed convenient places wherein they were to be deposited, rightly judging that it would not be prudent to have them left at his own house.

The infamous plan being thus concerted, it became the business of Wild to apply to persons who had been robbed, pretending to be greatly concerned at their misfortunes; saying that some suspected property had been stopped by a very honest man, a broker, with whom he was acquainted, and that, if their goods happened to be in the hands of his friend, restitution should be made. But he failed not to suggest that the broker ought to be rewarded for his trouble and disinterestedness; and to use every argument in his power towards exacting a promise that no disagreeable consequences should ensue to his friend, who had imprudently neglected to apprehend the supposed thieves.

Happy in the prospect of regaining their property, without the trouble and expense necessarily attending prosecutions, people generally approved of the conduct of

Wild, and sometimes rewarded him even with one half of the real value of the goods restored. It was not, however, uniformly so; and sundry pertinacious individuals, not satisfied with Wild's superficial statement, questioned him particularly as to the *manner* of their goods being discovered. On these occasions he pretended to feel hurt that his honour should be disputed, alleging that his motive was to afford all the service in his power to the injured party, whose goods he imagined might possibly be those stopped by his friend; but since his honest intentions had been received in so ungracious a manner, and himself interrogated respecting the robbers, he had nothing further to say on the subject, but must take his leave; adding, that his name was Jonathan Wild, and that he was every day to be found at his house in Cock Alley, Cripplegate. This affectation of resentment seldom failed to answer the purposes proposed by it; and a more favorable estimate of his principles and character thus formed, he had an opportunity of advancing his demands.

Wild received in his own name no gratuity from the owners of stolen goods, but deducted his profit from the money which was to be paid *the broker*: thus did he amass considerable sums without danger of prosecution, his offences coming under the operation of no law then in existence. For several years indeed he preserved a tolerably fair character, so consummate was the art employed in the management of his schemes.

Our hero's business greatly increasing, and his name becoming well known, he altered his mode of action. Instead of applying directly to parties who had been plundered, he opened an office, to which great numbers resorted, in

hopes of recovering their effects. He made a great parade in his business, and assumed a consequence which enabled him more effectually to impose upon the public. When persons came to his office, they were informed that they must each pay a crown in consideration of receiving his advice. This ceremony being dispatched, he entered in his book the name and address of the applicants, with all the particulars they could communicate respecting the robberies, and the rewards that would be given provided the goods were recovered: they were then desired to call again in a few days; when he hoped he should be able to give them some agreeable intelligence. Upon returning to know the success of his inquiries, he told them that he had received some information concerning their goods, but that the agent he had employed to trace them had apprised him that the robbers pretended they could raise more money by pawning the property than by restoring it for the promised reward; saying, however, that, if he could by any means procure an interview with the villains, he doubted not of being able to settle matters agreeably to the terms already stipulated; but, at the same time, artfully insinuating that the safest and most expeditious method would be to make some addition to the reward.

Wild, at length, became eminent in his profession, which proved highly lucrative. When he had discovered the utmost sum that it was likely would be given for the recovery of any property, he requested its owner to apply at a particular time, and, mean while, caused the goods to be ready for delivery.

Considerable advantages were derived from examining the person who had been robbed; as he thence *became acquainted with particulars*

which the thieves might omit to communicate, and was enabled to detect them if they concealed any part of their booties. Being in possession of the secrets of every notorious thief, they were under the necessity of complying with whatever terms he thought proper to exact, being aware that, by opposing his inclination, they should involve themselves in the most imminent danger of being sacrificed to the injured laws of their country.

Through the infamous practices of this man, articles which had been before considered as of little use but to the owners now became matters claiming particular attention from the thieves, by whom the metropolis and its environs were haunted. Pocket-books, books of accounts, watches, rings, trinkets, and a variety of articles of but small intrinsic worth, were at once esteemed very profitable plunder. Books of accounts, and other writings, being of great importance to the owners, produced very handsome rewards ; and the same may be said of pocket-books, which generally contained curious memorandums, and sometimes bank-notes and other articles on which money could be readily procured.

Wild accumulated cash so fast, that he considered himself a man of consequence; and, to support his imaginary dignity, dressed in laced clothes and wore a sword, which martial instrument he first exercised on the person of his accomplice and reputed wife, Mary Milliner, who having on some occasion provoked him, he instantly struck at her with it, and cut off one of her ears. This event was the cause of a separation; but, in acknowledgment of the great services she had rendered him, by introducing him to so advantageous a *profession*, he allowed her a weekly stipend till her dec ase.

Before Wild had brought the plan of his office to perfection, he for some time acted as an assistant to Charles Hitchin, once city-marshal, a man as wicked as himself. These celebrated copartners in villainy, under the pretext of controlling the enormities of the dissolute, paraded the streets from Temple-bar to the Minories, searching houses of ill fame, and apprehending disorderly and suspected persons; but those who complimented these *public* reformers with *private* douceurs were allowed to practise every species of wickedness with impunity. Hitchin and Wild, however, grew jealous of each other, and, an open rupture taking place, they parted, each pursuing the business of thief-taking on his own account.

In the year 1715 Wild removed from his house in Cock Alley to a Mrs. Seagoe's, in the Old Bailey, where he pursued his business with the usual success, notwithstanding the efforts of Hitchin, his rival in iniquity, to suppress his proceedings.

The reader's astonishment will increase when we state that these two abandoned miscreants had the daring effrontery to appeal to the public, and attacked each other with all possible scurrility in pamphlets and advertisements. Never, surely, was the press so debased as in disgorging the filth of their pens. Hitchin published what he called 'The Regulator; or a Discovery of Thieves and Thief-takers.' It is an ignorant and impudent insult to the reader, and replete with abuse of Wild, whom he brands, in his capacity of thief-taker, with being worse than the thief. Wild retorts with great bitterness; and his pamphlet containing much curious information, we shall incorporate a part of it, requesting the reader to bear in mind that it refers to a previous part of our hero's career.

Hitchin having greatly debased the respectable post of city marshal, the lord mayor suspended him from that office. In order to repair his loss, he determined, as the most prudent step, to strive to bury his aversion, and confederate with Wild. To effect this, he wrote as follows:

'I am very sensible that you are let into the knowledge of the secrets of the Compter, particularly with relation to the securing of pocket-books; but your experience is inferior to mine: I can put you in a far better method than you are acquainted with, and which may be done with safety; for, though I am suspended, I still retain the power of acting as constable, and, notwithstanding I cannot be heard before my lord mayor as formerly, I have interest among the aldermen upon any complaint.

'But I must first tell you that you spoil the trade of thief-taking, in advancing greater rewards than are necessary. I give but half-a-crown a book, and, when the thieves and pickpockets see you and I confederate, they will submit to our terms, and likewise continue their thefts, for fear of coming to the gallows by our means. You shall take a turn with me, as my servant or assistant, and we'll commence our rambles this night.'

Wild, it appears, readily accepted the ex-marshal's proposals: towards dark they proceeded to Temple-bar, and called in at several brandy-shops and alehouses between that and Fleet Ditch; some of the masters of these houses complimented the marshal with punch, others with brandy, and some presented him with fine ale, offering their service to their worthy protector. Hitchin made them little answer; but gave them to understand all the service he expected

from them was, to give information of pocket-books, or any goods stolen, as a pay-back: 'For you women of the town,' addressing himself to some females in one of the shops, 'make it a common practice to resign things of this nature to the bullies and rogues of your retinue; but this shall no longer be borne with. I'll give you my word both they and you shall be detected, unless you deliver all the pocket-books you meet with to me. What do you think I bought my place for, but to make the most of it? and you are to understand this is my man (pointing to our buckle-maker) to assist me. And if you at any time, for the future, refuse to yield up the watches or books you take, either to me or my servant, you may be assured of being all sent to Bridewell, and not one of you shall be permitted to walk the streets longer. For, notwithstanding I am under suspension (chiefly for not suppressing the practices of such vermin as you), I have still a power of punishing, and you shall dearly pay for not observing deference to me.' Strutting along a little farther, he on a sudden seized two or three dexterous pickpockets, reprimanding them for not paying their respects, asking to what part of the town they were rambling, and whether they did not see him? They answered that they saw him at a distance, but he caught hold of them so hastily that they had no time to address him. 'We have been strolling,' said they, 'over Moorfields, and from thence to the Blue Boar, in pursuit of you; but not finding you, as usual, were under some fears that you were indisposed.' The marshal replied, he should have given them a meeting there, but had been employed the whole day with *his new man*. 'You are to be very

careful,' said he, 'not to oblige any person but myself, or servant, with pocket-books; if you presume to do otherwise you shall swing for it, and we are out in the city every night to observe your motions.' These instructions given, the pickpockets left, making their master a low congee, and promising obedience. Such was the progress of the first night with the buckle-maker, whom he told that his staff of authority terrified the ignorant to the extent of his wishes.

Some nights afterwards, walking towards the back part of St. Paul's, the ex-marshal thus addressed Jonathan:—'I will now show you a brandy-shop that entertains no company but: whores and thieves. This is a house for our purpose, and I am informed that a woman of the town who frequents it has lately robbed a gentleman of his watch and pocket-book: this advice I received from her companion, with whom I have a good understanding. We will go into this house, and, if we can find this woman, I will assume a sterner countenance (though at best I look like an infernal), by continued threats extort a confession, and by that means get possession of the watch and pocket-book, in order to which, do you slyly accost her companion.'—Here he described her.—'Call to her, and say that your master is in a damned humour, and swears if she does not instantly make a discovery where the watch and pocket-book may be found, at farthest by to-morrow, he will certainly send her to the Compter, and thence to the work-house.'

The means being thus concerted to obtain the valuable goods, both master and man entered the shop in pursuit of the game, and, according to expectation, found the person wanted, with several others; where

another person, though it could never be traced back ; but it happened, a short time after, that some of the young fry of pickpockets under the tuition of the marshal fell out in sharing the money given them for this very pocket-book ; whereupon one of them came to Wild, and discovered the whole matter, viz. that he had sold the pocket-book, with the 100*l.* exchequer-note in it, and other bills, to the city-marshal, at a tavern in Aldersgate Street, for four or five guineas.

A person standing in the pillory, near Charing Cross, a gentleman in the crowd was deprived of a pocket-book, which had in it bills and lottery-tickets to the value of several hundred pounds ; and a handsome reward (30*l.*) was at first offered for it in a public advertisement. The marshal, having a suspicion that a famous pickpocket, known by his lame hand, had taken the book, he applied to him ; and, to enforce a confession and delivery, told him, with a great deal of assurance, that he must be the person, such a man, with a lame hand, having been described by the gentleman to have been near him, and whom he was certain had stolen his book. ' In short,' says he, ' you had the book, and you must bring it to me, and you shall share the reward ; but, if you refuse to comply with such advantageous terms, you must never expect to come within the city gates ; for, if you do, Bridewell, at least, if not Newgate, shall be your residence.'

After several meetings, the marshal's old friend could not deny that he had the pocket-book : but he said to the marshal, ' I did not expect this rigorous treatment from you, after the services I have done you, in concealing you several times, and by that means keeping you out of a gaol. It is not the

way to expect any future service, when all my former good offices are forgotten.' Notwithstanding these reasons, Hitchin still insisted upon what he had at first proposed ; and at length the pickpocket, considering that he could not repair to the Exchange, or elsewhere, to follow his pilfering employment, without the marshal's consent, and fearing to be made a mark of his revenge, condescended to part with the pocket-book upon terms reasonable between buyer and seller. ' Whereupon says the marshal, ' I lost all my money last night at gaming, except a gold watch in my pocket, which I believe there will be no inquiry after, it coming to hand by an intrigue with a woman of the town, whom the gentleman will be ashamed to prosecute for fear of exposing himself. I'll exchange goods for goods with you.' So the pickpocket, rather than he would risk the consequence of disobliging his master, concluded the bargain.

One night, not far from St. Paul's, the marshal and his man met with a detachment of pickpocket boys, who instantly, at the sight of their master, took to their heels and ran away. The buckle-maker asked the meaning of their surprise. To which the marshal answered, ' I know their meaning, a pack of rogues ! they were to have met me in the fields, this morning, with a book I am informed they have taken from a gentleman, and they are afraid of being secured for their disobedience. There is Jack Jones among them.—We'll catch the whore's bird.' Jack Jones, running behind a coach to make his escape, was taken by the marshal and his man. The master carried him to a tavern, and threatened him severely, telling him he believed they were turned housebreakers, and that they were concerned in a

burglary lately committed by four young criminals. This happened to be the fact, and the boy fearing the marshal had been informed of it, he, for his own security, confessed, and the marshal promised to save his life on his becoming evidence: whereupon the marshal committed the boy to the Compter till the next morning, when he carried him before a justice of the peace, who took his information, and issued a warrant for the apprehension of his companions.

Notice being given where the criminals were to be found, *viz.* at a house in Beech Lane, Hitchin and Wild went privately in the night thither, and, listening at the door, they overheard the boys, with several others, in a mixed company. Entering the house, they met ten or twelve persons, who were in a great rage, inquiring what business the marshal had there, and saluting him with a few oaths, which occasioned the marshal to make a prudent retreat, pulling the door after him, and leaving his little man to the mercy of the savage company.

In a short time the marshal returned with eight or ten watchmen and a constable; and, at the door, out of his dastardly disposition, though his pretence was a ceremonious respect, obliged the constable to go in first; but the constable and marshal were both so long with their compliments that the man thought neither of them would enter in: at last the constable appearing, with his long staff extended before him, the marshal manfully followed, crying out, 'Where are the rebel villains? Why don't ye secure them?' Wild answered that they were under the table; upon which the constable pulled out the juvenile offenders, neither of whom were above twelve years of age.

The two boys now taken were committed to Newgate; but the fact having been perpetrated in the county of Surrey, they were afterwards removed to the Marshalsea prison. The assizes coming on at Kingston, and Jones giving his evidence against his companions before the grand jury, a true bill was found, and the marshal indorsed his name on the back of it, to have the honour of being an evidence against these monstrous housebreakers. On the trial, the nature of the fact was declared; but the parents of the offenders appeared, and satisfied the Court that the marshal was the occasion of the ruin of these boys, by taking them into the fields, and encouraging them in the stealing of pocket-books; and told him, on his affirming they were thieves, that he had made them such. The judge, observing the marshal's views were more to get the reward than to do justice, summed up the charge to the jury in favour of the boys, who were thereupon acquitted, and the marshal reprimanded. He was so enraged at this, and so angry with himself for not accusing them of other crimes, that he immediately returned to London, leaving his man to discharge the whole reckoning at Kingston.

A gentleman, who had lost his watch when in company with a woman of the town, applied to a person belonging to the Compter, who recommended him to the buckle-maker, to procure the same; and the gentleman applying accordingly to him, and giving him a description of the woman, the buckle-maker, a few days after, traversing Fleet Street with his master in an evening, happened to meet with the female (as he apprehended by the description of the gentleman) who had stolen the watch, and, coming nearer, was satisfied therein.

He told his master that she was the very person described : to which the master answered, with an air of pleasure, ' I am glad to find we have a prospect of something to-night to defray our expenses,' and immediately, with the assistance of Wild, seized the female and carried her to a public house, where, upon examination, she confessed it was in her power to serve the marshal in it; telling him that if he would please to go with her home, or send his man, the watch would be returned, with a suitable reward for his trouble. The man asked his master his opinion, whether he thought he might pursue the woman with safety? To which the other replied, Yes, for that he knew her, at the same time giving hints of his following at a reasonable distance, for his security, which he did with a great deal of precaution, as will appear; for, proceeding with the female, she informed him that her husband, who had the watch about him, was at a tavern near Whitefriars, and, if he would condescend to go thither, he might be furnished with it without giving himself any farther trouble, together with the reward he deserved.—To which Wild consenting, they came to the tavern, where she made inquiry for the company she had been with but a short space before; and, being informed they were still in the house, she sent in word by the drawer that the gentlewoman who had been with them that evening desired the favour to speak with them. The drawer going in, and delivering the message, immediately three or four men came from the room to the female: she gave them to understand that the marshal's man had accused her of stealing a watch, telling them she supposed it must be some other woman who had assumed her name, and desired their

protection; upon this the whole company sallied out, and attacked the marshal's man in a very violent manner, to make a rescue of the female, upbraiding him for degrading a gentlewoman of her reputation.

The marshal having followed at a little distance, and observed the ill success of his man, fearing the like discipline, made off, hugging himself that he had escaped the severe treatment he had equally deserved. Jonathan in the struggle showed his resentment chiefly against the female; who, after a long contest, was thrust out at the back door; and immediately the watch being called, he and the rest of the party were seized.

As they were going to the Compter, the marshal overtook them near Bow church, and, coming up to Wild in great haste, asked him the occasion of his long absence: the man said, that he had been at a tavern with the woman, where he thought he saw him: the master answered, that indeed he was there; but seeing the confusion so great, he went off to call the watch and constables. The marshal used his interest to get his servant off, but to no purpose, he being carried to the Compter with the rest of the company, in order to make an agreement there.

The next morning the woman sent to her companions in the Compter, letting them know that, if they could be released, the watch should be returned without any consideration, which was accordingly done, and a small present made to the marshal's man for smart-money. They were now all discharged, paying their fees.

The watch being thus ready to be produced to the owner, the marshal insisted upon the greatest part of the reward, as being the highest person in authority: the man declared this unreasonable, he himself

having received the largest share of the bastinado. 'But, however,' says the marshal, 'I have now an opportunity of playing my old game; I'll oblige the gentleman to give me ten guineas to save his reputation, which is so nearly concerned with a common prostitute.' But the gentleman knew too much of his character to be thus imposed upon, and would give him no more than what he promised, which was three guineas. Hitchin at first refused; but his man (who had the most right to make a new contract) advising him to act cautiously, he at last agreed to accept the reward first offered, giving Jonathan only one guinea for his services and the cure of his wounds. The above is a farther instance of the marshal's cowardice and inhumanity.

The marshal, going one night up Ludgate Hill, observed a well-dressed woman walking before, whom he told Wild was a lewd woman, for that he saw her talking with a man. This was no sooner spoke but he seized her, and asked who she was. She made answer that she was a bailiff's wife. 'You are more likely to be a whore,' said the marshal, 'and as such you shall go to the Compter.'

Taking the woman through St. Paul's Church-yard, she desired liberty to send for some friends; but he would not comply with her request. He forced her into the Nag's Head tavern in Cheapside, where he presently ordered a hot supper and plenty of wine to be brought in; commanding the female to keep at a distance from him, and telling her that he did not permit such vermin to sit in his company, though he intended to make her pay the reckoning.

When the supper was brought to the table, he fell to it lustily, and would not allow the woman to eat

any part of the supper with him, or to come near the fire, though it was extreme cold weather. When he had supped, he stared round, and, applying himself to her, told her that if he had been an informer, or such a fellow, she would have called for eatables and wine herself, and not have given him the trouble of direction, or else would have slipped a piece into his hand; adding, 'You may do what you please: but I can assure you it is in my power, if I see a woman in the hands of informers, to discharge her, and commit them. You are not so ignorant but you must guess my meaning.' She replied, that she had money enough to pay for the supper, and about three half-crowns more. This desirable answer being given, he ordered his attendant to withdraw, while he compounded the matter with her.

When Wild returned, the gentlewoman was civilly asked to sit by the fire, and eat the remainder of the supper, and in all respects treated very kindly, only with a pretended reprimand to give him better language whenever he should speak to her for the future; and, after another bottle drank at her expense, she was discharged. This is an excellent method to get a good supper gratis, and to fill an empty pocket.

The marshal, previous to his suspension, had daily meetings with the pickpocket boys in Moorfields, and treated them there plentifully with cakes and ale; offering them sufficient encouragement to continue their thefts: and at a certain time it happened that one of the boys, more cunning than his companions, having stolen an alderman's pocket-book, and finding, on opening it, several bank bills, he gave the marshal to understand that it was worth a great deal beyond the usual price;

and, the notes being of considerable value, insisted upon five pieces. The marshal told the boy that five pieces were enough to break him at once; that if he gave him two guineas he would be sufficiently paid; but assured him that, if he had the good luck to obtain a handsome reward, he would then make it up five pieces. Upon this present encouragement and future expectation the boy delivered up the pocket-book, and a few days afterwards, being informed that a very large reward had been given for the notes, he applied to the marshal for the remaining three guineas, according to promise; but all the satisfaction he got was, that he should be sent to the house of correction if he continued to demand it; the marshal telling him that such rascals as he were ignorant how to dispose of their money.

This conniving at the intrigues of the pickpockets, taking the stolen pocket-books, and sending threatening letters to the persons that lost them, under pretence that they had been in company with lewd women; extorting money also from persons in various other ways; were the causes of the marshal's being suspended; and this most detestable villain having subsequently been fined twenty pounds, and pilloried, for a crime too loathsome to be named in these pages, left Wild at length alone to execute his plans of depredation on the public.

We shall now, quitting Mr. Wild's recriminating pamphlet, proceed in our regular account of the hero of this narrative.—When the vagabonds with whom he was in league faithfully related to him the particulars of the robberies they had committed, and intrusted to him the disposal of their booties, he assured them that they might safely rely on him for protection against

the vengeance of the law; and indeed it must be acknowledged that in cases of this nature he would persevere in his utmost endeavours to surmount very great difficulties rather than wilfully falsify his word.

Wild's artful behaviour, and the punctuality with which he discharged his engagements, obtained him a great share of confidence among thieves of every denomination; insomuch, that if he caused it to be intimated to them that he was desirous of seeing them, and that they should not be molested, they would attend him with the utmost willingness, without entertaining the most distant apprehension of danger, although conscious that he had informations against them, and that their lives were absolutely in his power; but if they presumed to reject his proposals, or proved otherwise refractory, he would address them to the following effect: 'I have given you my word that you should come and go in safety, and so you shall; but take care of yourself, for, if ever you see me again, you see an enemy.'

The great influence that Wild obtained over the thieves will not be thought a very extraordinary matter, if it is considered that, when he promised to use his endeavours for rescuing them from impending fate, he was always desirous, and generally able, to succeed. Such as complied with his measures he would never interrupt; but, on the contrary, afford them every encouragement for prosecuting their iniquitous practices; and, if apprehended by any other person, he seldom failed of procuring their discharge. His most usual method (in desperate cases, and when matters could not be managed with more ease and expedition) was to procure them to be admitted evidences, under pre-

text that it was in their power to make discoveries of high importance to the public. When they were in prison he frequently attended them, and communicated to them from his own memorandums such particulars as he judged it would be prudent for them to relate to the Court. When his accomplices were apprehended, and he was not able to prevent their being brought to trial, he contrived stratagems (in which his invention was amazingly fertile) for keeping the principal witnesses out of Court; so that the delinquents were generally dismissed in defect of evidence.

Jonathan was ever a most implacable enemy to those who were hardy enough to reject his terms, and dispose of their stolen effects for their own separate advantage. He was industrious to an extreme in his efforts to surrender them into the hands of justice; and, being acquainted with all their usual places of resort, it was scarcely possible for them to escape his vigilance.

By his subjecting such as incurred his displeasure to the punishment of the law, he obtained the rewards offered for pursuing them to conviction; greatly extended his ascendancy over the other thieves, who considered him with a kind of awe; and, at the same time, established his character as being a man of great public utility.

It was the practice of Wild to give instructions to the thieves whom he employed as to the manner in which they should conduct themselves; and, if they followed his directions, it was seldom that they failed of success. But if they neglected a strict observance of his rules, or were, through inadvertency or ignorance, guilty of any kind of mismanagement or error in the prosecution of the schemes he

had suggested, it was to be understood almost as an absolute certainty that he would procure them to be convicted at the next sessions, deeming them to be unqualified for the profession of roguery.

He was frequently asked how it was possible that he could carry on the business of restoring stolen effects, and yet not be in league with the robbers; and his replies were always to this purpose:—'My acquaintance among thieves is very extensive, and, when I receive information of a robbery, I make inquiry after the suspected parties, and leave word at proper places that, if the goods are left where I appoint, the reward shall be paid, and no questions asked. Surely no imputation of guilt can fall upon me; for I hold no interviews with the robbers, nor are the goods given into my possession.'

We will now give a relation of the most remarkable exploits of the hero of these pages; and our detail must necessarily include many particulars relating to other notorious characters of the same period.

A lady of fortune being on a visit in Piccadilly, her servants, leaving her sedan at the door, went to refresh themselves at a neighbouring public house. Upon their return the vehicle was not to be found; in consequence of which the men immediately went to Wild, and having informed him of their loss, and complimented him with the usual fee, they were desired to call upon him again in a few days. Upon their second application, Wild extorted from them a considerable reward, and then directed them to attend the chapel in Lincoln's Inn Fields on the following morning, during the time of prayers. The men went according to the appointment, and under the piazzas

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of the chapel perceived the chair, which upon examination they found to contain the velvet seat, curtains, and other furniture, and that it had received no kind of damage.

A young gentleman, named Knap, accompanied his mother to Sadler's Wells, on Saturday, March 31, 1716. On their return they were attacked, about ten at night, near the wall of Gray's Inn Gardens, by five villains. The young gentleman was knocked down, and his mother, being exceedingly alarmed, called for assistance; upon which a pistol was discharged at her, and she instantly fell down dead. A considerable reward was offered by proclamation in the Gazette for the discovery of the perpetrator of this horrid crime; and Wild was remarkably assiduous in his endeavours to apprehend the offenders. From a description given of some of the villains, Wild immediately judged the gang to be composed of William White, Thomas Thurland, John Chapman, alias Edward Darvel, Timothy Dun, and Isaac Rag.

On the evening of Sunday, April 8, Wild received intelligence that some of the above-named men were drinking with their prostitutes at a house kept by John Weatherly, in Newtoner's Lane. He went to Weatherly's, accompanied by his man Abraham, and seized White, whom he brought away about midnight, in a hackney-coach, and lodged him in the round-house.

White being secured, information was given to Wild that a man named James Aires was then at the Bell Inn, Smithfield, in company with a woman of the town. Having an information against Aires, Wild, accompanied by his assistants, repaired to the inn, under the gateway of which they met Thurland, whose person had been mistaken for that of Aires. Thurland was provided

with two brace of pistols; but, being suddenly seized, he was deprived of all opportunity of making use of those weapons, and taken into custody.

They went on the following night to a house in White Horse Alley, Drury Lane, where they apprehended Chapman, alias Darvel. Soon after the murder of Mrs. Knap, Chapman and others stopped the coach of Thomas Middlethwaite, Esq. but that gentleman escaped being robbed by discharging a blunderbuss, and wounding Chapman in the arm, on which the villains retired.

In a short time after, Wild apprehended Isaac Rag at a house which he frequented in St. Giles's, in consequence of an information charging him with a burglary. Being taken before a magistrate, in the course of his examination Rag impeached twenty-two accomplices, charging them with being house-breakers, footpads, and receivers of stolen effects; and, in consequence thereof, was admitted an evidence for the crown. This man had been convicted of a misdemeanour in January, 1714-15, and sentenced to stand three times in the pillory. He had concealed himself in the dust-hole belonging to the house of Thomas Powell, where being discovered, he was searched, and a pistol, some matches, and a number of pick-lock keys, were found in his possession. His intention was evidently to commit a burglary; but, as he did not enter the house, he was indicted for a misdemeanour in entering the yard with intent to steal. He was indicted in October, 1715, for a burglary, in the house of Elizabeth Stanwell, on the 24th of August; but he was acquitted of this charge.

White, Thurland, and Chapman, were arraigned on the 18th of May,

1716, at the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, on an indictment for assaulting John Knap, Gent. putting him in fear, and taking from him a hat and wig, on the 31st of March, 1716. They were also indicted for the murder of Mary Knap, widow: White by discharging a pistol loaded with powder and bullets, and thereby giving her a wound, of which she immediately died, March 31, 1716. They were a second time indicted for assaulting and robbing John Gough. White was a fourth time indicted with James Russel for a burglary in the house of George Barklay. And Chapman was a fourth time indicted for a burglary in the house of Henry Cross. These three offenders were executed at Tyburn on the 8th of June, 1716.

Wild was indefatigable in his endeavours to apprehend Timothy Dun, who had hitherto escaped the hands of justice by removing to a new lodging, where he concealed himself in the most cautious manner. Wild, however, did not despair of discovering this offender, whom he supposed must either perish through want of the necessaries of life, or obtain the means of subsistence by returning to his felonious practices; and so confident was he of success, that he made a wager of ten guineas that he would have him in custody before the expiration of an appointed time.

Dun's confinement, at length, became exceedingly irksome to him; and he sent his wife to make inquiries respecting him of Wild, in order to discover whether he was still in danger of being apprehended. Upon her return Wild ordered one of his people to follow her home. She took water at Blackfriars, and landed at the Falcon; but suspecting the man was employed to trace her, she again took water, and

crossed to Whitefriars: observing that she was still followed, she ordered the waterman to proceed to Lambeth, and having landed there, it being nearly dark, imagined she had escaped the observation of Wild's man, and therefore walked immediately home. The man traced her to Maid Lane, near the Bank-side, Southwark, and perceiving her enter a house, he marked the wall with chalk, and then returned to his employer, with an account of the discovery he had made.

Wild, accompanied by a fellow named Abraham, a Jew, who acted the part himself had formerly done to the worthless marshal, one Riddlesden, and another man, went on the following morning to the house where the woman had been seen to enter. Dun, hearing a noise, and thence suspecting that he was discovered, got through a back-window on the second floor upon the roof of the pantry, the bottom of which was about eight feet from the ground. Abraham discharged a pistol, and wounded Dun in the arm; in consequence of which he fell from the pantry into the yard; after his fall Riddlesden fired also, and wounded him in the face with small-shot. Dun was secured and carried to Newgate, and being tried at the ensuing sessions, was soon after executed at Tyburn.

Riddlesden was bred to the law, but he entirely neglected that business, and abandoned himself to every species of wickedness. His irregular course of life having greatly embarrassed his circumstances, he broke into the chapel of Whitehall, and stole the communion-plate. He was convicted of this offence, and received sentence of death; but, through the exertion of powerful interest, a pardon was obtained, on condition of transporting himself for the term of seven years. He

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went to America, but soon returned to England, and had the address to ingratiate himself into the favour of a young lady, daughter to an opulent merchant at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Before he could get his wife's fortune, which was considerable, into his hands, he was discovered and committed to Newgate. She followed him, and was brought to bed in the prison. Her friends, however, being apprized of her unhappy situation, caused her to re-

turn home. He contracted an intimacy with the widow of Richard Revel, one of the turnkeys of Newgate; and, being permitted to transport himself again, that woman went with him to Philadelphia, under the character of his wife. In consequence, however, of a disagreement between them, Mrs. Revel returned, and took a public house in Golden Lane; but what became of Riddlesden does not appear.



One night, during the connexion of Wild with Hitchin the city marshal, being abroad in their walks, not far from the Temple, they discovered a clergyman standing against the wall in an alley, to which he had retired, as persons frequently do, on account of modesty and decency. Immediately a woman of the town, lying in wait for prey, brushing by, the clergy-

man exclaimed aloud, 'What does the woman want?' The marshal instantly rushed in upon them, and seized the clergyman, bidding his man secure the woman. The clergyman resisted, protesting his innocence which his language to the woman confirmed; but, finding it to no purpose, he at last desired that he might be permitted to go into an ironmonger's house near.

this the marshal refused, and dragged the clergyman to the end of Salisbury Court, in Fleet Street, where he raised a mob about him; and two or three gentlemen, who knew the parson, happening to come by, asked the mob what they were doing with him, telling them he was chaplain to a noble lord. The rough gentry answered, 'Damn him, we believe he's chaplain to the devil, for we caught him with a whore.'

Hereupon the gentlemen desired the marshal to go to a tavern, that they might talk with him without noise and tumult, which he consented to. When they came into the tavern, the clergyman asked the marshal by what authority he thus abused him. The marshal replied he was a city officer (pulling out his staff), and would have him to the Compter, unless he gave very good security for his appearance next morning, when he would swear that he caught him with a whore.

The clergyman seeing him so bent upon perjury, which would very much expose him, sent for other persons to vindicate his reputation, who, putting a purse of gold into the marshal's hand (which they found was the only way to deal with such a monster in iniquity), the clergyman was permitted to depart.

A thief of most infamous character, named Arnold Powel, being confined in Newgate, on a charge of having robbed a house in the neighbourhood of Golden Square of property to a great amount, was visited by Jonathan, who informed him that, in consideration of a sum of money, he would save his life; adding that, if the proposal was rejected, he should inevitably die at Tyburn for the offence on account of which he was then imprisoned. The prisoner, however, not believing that it was in Wild's power

to do him any injury, bade him defiance. Powel was brought to trial; but, through a defect of evidence, he was acquitted. Having gained intelligence that Powel had committed a burglary in the house of Mr. Eastlick, near Fleet Ditch, Wild caused that gentleman to prosecute the robber. Upon receiving information that a bill was found for the burglary, Powel sent for Wild, and a compromise was effected according to the terms which Wild himself had proposed, in consequence of which Powel was assured that his life should be preserved. Upon the approach of the sessions, Wild informed the prosecutor that the first and second days would be employed in other trials, and, as he was willing Mr. Eastlick should avoid attending with his witnesses longer than was necessary, he would give timely notice when Powel would be arraigned. But he contrived to have the prisoner put to the bar; and, no persons appearing to prosecute, he was ordered to be taken away; but after some time he was again set to the bar, then ordered away, and afterwards put up a third time, proclamation being made each time for the prosecutor to appear. At length the jury were charged with the prisoner, and, as no accusation was adduced against him, he was necessarily dismissed; and the Court ordered Mr. Eastlick's recognisances to be estreated.

Powel was ordered to remain in custody till the next sessions, there being another indictment against him; and Mr. Eastlick represented the behaviour of Wild to the Court, who justly reprimanded him with great severity.

Powel put himself into a salivation, in order to avoid being brought to trial the next sessions; but, notwithstanding this stratagem, he was arraigned and con-

victed, and executed on the 20th of March, 1716-7.

At this time Wild had quitted his apartments at Mrs. Seagoe's, and hired a house adjoining to the Coopers' Arms, on the opposite side of the Old Bailey. The unexampled villainies of this man were now become an object of so much consequence, as to excite the particular attention of the legislature. In the year 1718 an act was passed, deeming every person guilty of a capital offence who should accept a reward in consequence of restoring stolen effects without prosecuting the thief. It was the general opinion that this law would effectually suppress the iniquitous practices of Wild; but, after some interruption to his proceedings, he devised means for evading it, which were for several years attended with success.

He now declined the custom of receiving money from the persons who applied to him; but, upon the second or third time of calling, informed them that all he had been able to learn respecting their business was, that, if a sum of money was left at an appointed place, their property would be restored the same day.

Sometimes, as the person robbed was returning from Wild's house, he was accosted in the street by a man who delivered the stolen effects, at the same time producing a note, expressing the sum that was to be paid for them.

In cases wherein he supposed danger was to be apprehended, he advised people to advertise that whoever would bring the stolen goods to Jonathan Wild should be rewarded, and no questions asked.

In the two first instances it could not be proved that he either saw the thief, received the goods, or accepted of a reward; and in the latter case he acted agreeably to the

directions of the injured party, and there appeared no reason to criminate him as being in confederacy with the felons.

When he was asked what would satisfy him for his trouble, he told the persons who had recovered their property that what he had done was without any interested view, and merely from a principle of doing good; that therefore he made no claim; but, if he accepted a present, he should not consider it as being his due, but as an instance of generosity, which he should acknowledge accordingly.

Our adventurer's business increased exceedingly, and he opened an office in Newton's Lane, to the management of which he appointed his man Abraham. This Israelite proved a remarkably industrious and faithful servant to Jonathan, who intrusted him with matters of the greatest importance.

By too strict an application to business Wild much impaired his health, so that he judged it prudent to retire into the country for a short time. He hired a lodging at Dulwich, leaving both offices under the direction of Abraham.

A lady had her pocket picked of bank-notes to the amount of seven thousand pounds. She related the particulars of her robbery to Abraham, who in a few days apprehended three pickpockets, and conducted them to Jonathan's lodgings at Dulwich. Upon their delivering up all the notes, Wild dismissed them. When the lady applied to Abraham, he restored her property, and she generously made him a present of four hundred pounds, which he delivered to his employer. These three pickpockets were afterwards apprehended for some other offences, and transported. One of them carefully concealed a bank-note for a thousand pounds in the

lining of his coat. On his arrival at Maryland, he procured cash for the note, and, having purchased his freedom, went to New York, where he assumed the character of a gentleman.

Wild's business would not permit him to remain long at Dulwich; and being under great inconvenience from the want of Abraham's immediate assistance, he did not keep open his office in Newton's Lane for more than three months.

About a week after the return of Jonathan from Dulwich, a mercer in Lombard Street ordered a porter to carry to a particular inn a box containing goods to the amount of two hundred pounds. In his way the porter was observed by three thieves, one of whom, being more genteelly dressed than his companions, accosted the man in the following manner: 'If you are willing to earn sixpence, my friend, step to the tavern at the end of the street, and ask for the roquelaure I left at the bar; but, lest the waiter should scruple giving it to you, take my gold watch as a token. Pitch your burden upon this bulk, and I will take care of it till you return; but be sure you make haste.' The man went to the tavern, and, having delivered his message, was informed that the thing he inquired for had not been left there; upon which the porter said, 'Since you scruple to trust me, look at this gold watch, which the gentleman gave me to produce as a token.' What was called a gold watch, being examined, proved to be only pewter lacquered. In consequence of this discovery, the porter hastened back to where he had left the box; but neither that nor the sharpers were to be found.

The porter was, with reason, apprehensive that he should incur his master's displeasure if he related what had happened; and, in order

to excuse his folly, he determined upon the following stratagem:—he rolled himself in the mud, and then went home, saying he had been knocked down, and robbed of the goods.

The proprietor of the goods applied to Wild, and related to him the story he had been told by his servant. Wild told him he had been deceived as to the manner in which the trunk was lost, and that he should be convinced of it if he would send for the porter. A messenger was accordingly dispatched for him, and, upon his arrival, Abraham conducted him into a room separated from the office only by a slight partition. 'Your master,' said Abraham, 'has just been here concerning the box you lost; and he desired that you might be sent for, in order to communicate the particulars of the robbery.—What kind of people were the thieves, and in what manner did they take the box away?' In reply the man said, 'Why, two or three fellows knocked me down, and then carried off the box.' Hereupon Abraham told him, that, 'if they knocked him down, there was but little chance of the property being recovered, since that offence rendered them liable to be hanged. But,' continued he, 'let me prevail upon you to speak the truth; for, if you persist in a refusal, be assured we shall discover it by some other means. Pray, do you recollect nothing about a token? Were you not to fetch a roquelaure from a tavern? and did you not produce a gold watch as a token to induce the waiter to deliver it?'—Astonished at Abraham's words, the porter declared 'he believed he was a witch,' and immediately acknowledged in what manner he had lost the box.

One of the villains concerned in the above transaction lived in the

house formerly inhabited by Wild, in Cock Alley, near Cripplegate. To this place Jonathan and Abraham repaired, and, when they were at the door, they overheard a dispute between the man and his wife, during which the former declared that he would set out for Holland the next day. Upon this they forced open the door; and Wild, saying he was under the necessity of preventing his intended voyage, took him into custody, and conducted him to the Compter. On the following day, the goods being returned to the owner, Wild received a handsome reward; and he contrived to procure the discharge of the thief.

On the 23d or 24th of January, 1718-19, Margaret Dodwell and Alice Wright went to Wild's house, and desired to have a private interview with him. Observing one of these women to be with child, he imagined she might want a father to her expected issue; for it was a part of his business to procure persons to stand in the place of the real fathers of children born in consequence of illicit commerce. Being shown into another room, Dodwell spoke in the following manner:— 'I do not come, Mr. Wild, to inform you that I have met with any loss, but that I wish to find something. If you will follow my advice, you may acquire a thousand pounds, or perhaps many thousands.' Jonathan here expressed the utmost willingness to engage in an enterprise so highly lucrative, and the woman proceeded thus: 'My plan is this: you must procure two or three stout resolute fellows who will undertake to rob a house in Wormwood Street, near Bishops-gate. This house is kept by a cane chair maker, named John Cooke, who has a lodger, an ancient maiden lady, immensely rich; and she keeps

her money in a box in her apartment; she is now gone into the country to fetch more. One of the men must find an opportunity of getting into the shop in the evening, and conceal himself in a saw-pit there: he may let his companions in when the family are retired to rest. But it will be particularly necessary to secure two stout apprentices, and a boy, who lie in the garret. I wish, however, that no murder may be committed.' Upon this Wright said, 'Phoo! phoo! when people engage in matters of this sort, they must manage as well as they can, and so as to provide for their own safety.' Dodwell now resumed her discourse to Jonathan. 'The boys having been secured, no kind of difficulty will attend getting possession of the old lady's money, she being from home, and her room under that where the boys sleep. In the room facing that of the old lady, Cooke and his wife lie: he is a man of remarkable courage; great caution, therefore, must be observed respecting him; and indeed I think it would be as well to knock him on the head; for then his drawers may be rifled, and he is never without money. A woman and a child lie under the room belonging to the old lady, but I hope no violence will be offered to them.'

Having heard the above proposal, Wild took the women into custody, and lodged them in Newgate. It is not to be supposed that his conduct in this affair proceeded from a principle of virtue or justice, but that he declined engaging in the iniquitous scheme from an apprehension that their design was to draw him into a snare.

Dodwell had lived five months in Mr. Cooke's house, and, though she paid no rent, he was too generous to turn her out, or in any manner

to oppress her. Wild prosecuted Dodwell and Wright for a misdemeanor, and, being found guilty, they were sentenced each to six months' imprisonment.

Wild had inserted in his book a gold watch, a quantity of fine lace, and other property of considerable value, which one John Butler had stolen from a house at Newington Green; but Butler, instead of coming to account as usual, had declined his felonious practices, and lived on the produce of his booty. Wild, highly enraged at being excluded his share, determined to pursue every possible means for subjecting him to the power of justice.

Being informed that he lodged at a public house in Bishopsgate Street, Wild went to the house early one morning, when Butler, hearing him ascending the stairs, jumped out of the window of his room, and, climbing over the wall of the yard, got into the street. Wild broke open the door of the room; but was exceedingly disappointed and mortified to find that the man of whom he was in pursuit had escaped. In the mean time Butler ran into a house, the door of which stood open, and, descending to the kitchen, where some women were washing, told them he was pursued by a bailiff, and they advised him to conceal himself in the coalhole.

Jonathan, coming out of the ale-house, and seeing a shop on the opposite side of the way open, he inquired of the master, who was a dyer, whether a man had not taken refuge in his house. The dyer answered in the negative, saying he had not left his shop more than a minute since it had been opened. Wild requested to search the house, and the dyer readily complied. Wild asked the women if they knew whether a man had taken shelter in the house, which they denied; but,

informing them that the man he sought was a thief, they said he would find him in the coalhole.

Having procured a candle, Wild and his attendants searched the place without effect, and they examined every part of the house with no better success. He observed that the villain must have escaped into the street; on which the dyer said that could not be the case; that if he had entered, he must still be in the house, for he had not quitted the shop, and it was impossible that a man could pass to the street without his knowledge; advising Wild to search the cellar again. They now all went into the cellar, and, after some time spent in searching, the dyer turned up a large vessel, used in his business, and Butler appeared. Wild asked him in what manner he had disposed of the goods he stole from Newington Green, upbraided him as being guilty of ingratitude, and declared that he should certainly be hanged.

Butler, however, knowing the means by which an accommodation might be effected, directed our hero to go to his lodging, and look behind the head of the bed, where he would find what would recompense him for his time and trouble. Wild went to the place, and found what perfectly satisfied him; but, as Butler had been apprehended in a public manner, the other was under the necessity of taking him before a magistrate, who committed him for trial. He was tried the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; but, by the artful management of Wild, instead of being condemned to die, he was only sentenced to transportation.

Being at an inn in Smithfield, Wild observed a large trunk in the yard, and, imagining that it contained property of value, he hastened home, and instructed one of the

thieves he employed to carry it off. The man he used in this matter was named Jeremiah Rann, and he was reckoned one of the most dexterous thieves in London. Having dressed himself so as exactly to resemble a porter, he carried away the trunk without being observed.

Mr. Jarvis, a whipmaker by trade, and the proprietor of the trunk, had no sooner discovered his loss than he applied to Wild, who returned him the goods, in consideration of receiving ten guineas. Some time after, a disagreement taking place between Jonathan and Rann, the former apprehended the latter, who was tried and condemned to die. The day preceding that on which Rann was executed he sent for Mr. Jarvis, and related to him all the particulars of the trunk. Wild was threatened with a prosecution by Mr. Jarvis; but all apprehensions arising hence were soon dissipated by the decease of that gentleman.

Wild, being much embarrassed in endeavoring to find out some method by which he might safely dispose of the property that was not claimed by the respective proprietors, revolved in his mind a variety of schemes; but at length he adopted that which follows: he purchased a sloop, in order to transport the goods to Holland and Flanders, and gave the command of the vessel to a notorious thief, named Roger Johnson.

Ostend was the port where this vessel principally traded; but, when the goods were not disposed of there, Johnson navigated her to Bruges, Ghent, Brussels, and other places. He brought home lace, wine, brandy, &c. and these commodities were landed in the night, without making any increase to the business of the revenue officers. This trade was continued about two

years, when, five pieces of lace being lost, Johnson deducted the value of them from the mate's pay. Violently irritated by this conduct, the mate lodged an information against Johnson for running a great quantity of various kinds of goods.

In consequence of this the vessel was exchequered, Johnson cast in damages to the amount of 700*l.* and the commercial proceedings were entirely ruined.

A disagreement had for some time subsisted between Johnson and Thomas Edwards, who kept a house of resort for thieves in Long Lane, concerning the division of some booty. Meeting one day in the Strand, they charged each other with felony, and were both taken into custody. Wild bailed Johnson, and Edwards was not prosecuted. The latter had no sooner recovered his liberty than he gave information against Wild, whose private warehouses being searched, a great quantity of stolen goods were there found. Wild now arrested Edwards in the name of Johnson, to whom he pretended the goods belonged, and he was taken to the Marshalsea, but the next day procured bail. Edwards determined to wreak his revenge upon Johnson, and for some time industriously sought him in vain; but, meeting him accidentally in Whitechapel Road, he gave him into the custody of a peace-officer, who conducted him to an adjacent alehouse. Johnson sent for Wild, who immediately attended, accompanied by his man, Quilt Arnold. Wild promoted a riot, during which Johnson availed himself of an opportunity of effecting an escape.

Information being made against Wild for the rescue of Johnson, he judged it prudent to abscond, and he remained concealed for three weeks; at the end of which time,

supposing all danger to be over, he returned to his house. Being apprized of this, Mr. Jones, high-constable of Holborn division, went to Jonathan's house in the Old Bailey, on the 18th of February, 1725, apprehended him and Quilt Arnold, and took them before Sir John Fryer, who committed them to Newgate on a charge of having assisted in the escape of Johnson.

On Wednesday, the 24th of the same month, Wild moved to be either admitted to bail or discharged, or brought to trial that sessions. On the following Friday a warrant of detainer was produced against him in Court, and to it was affixed the following articles of information:

I. That for many years past he had been a confederate with great numbers of highwaymen, pick-pockets, house-breakers, shop-lifters, and other thieves.

II. That he had formed a kind of corporation of thieves, of which he was the head or director; and that notwithstanding his pretended services, in detecting and prosecuting offenders, he procured such only to be hanged as concealed their booty, or refused to share it with him.

III. That he had divided the town and country into so many districts, and appointed distinct gangs for each, who regularly accounted with him for their robberies. That he had also a particular set to steal at churches in time of divine service: and likewise other moving detachments to attend at Court on birth-days, balls, &c. and at both houses of parliament, circuits, and country fairs.

IV. That the persons employed by him were for the most part felon convicts, who had returned from transportation before the time for which they were transported was expired; and that he made choice

of them to be his agents, because they could not be legal evidences against him, and because he had it in his power to take from them what part of the stolen goods he thought fit, and otherwise use them ill, or hang them, as he pleased.

V. That he had from time to time supplied such convicted felons with money and clothes, and lodged them in his own house, the better to conceal them: particularly some against whom there are now informations for counterfeiting and diminishing broad pieces and guineas.

VI. That he had not only been a receiver of stolen goods, as well as of writings of all kinds, for near fifteen years past, but had frequently been a confederate, and robbed along with the above-mentioned convicted felons.

VII. That in order to carry on these vile practices, and to gain some credit with the ignorant multitude, he usually carried a short silver staff, as a badge of authority from the government, which he used to produce when he himself was concerned in robbing.

VIII. That he had, under his care and direction, several warehouses for receiving and concealing stolen goods; and also a ship for carrying off jewels, watches, and other valuable goods, to Holland, where he had a superannuated thief for his factor.

IX. That he kept in pay several artists to make alterations, and transform watches, seals, snuff-boxes, rings, and other valuable things, that they might not be known, several of which he used to present to such persons as he thought might be of service to him.

X. That he seldom or never helped the owners to the notes and papers they had lost unless he found them able exactly to specify

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and describe them, and then often insisted on more than half the value.

XI. And, lastly, it appears that he has often sold human blood, by procuring false evidence to swear persons into facts they were not guilty of; sometimes to prevent them from being evidences against himself, and at other times for the sake of the great reward given by the government.

The information of Mr. Jones was also read in Court, setting forth that two persons would be produced to accuse the prisoner of capital offences. The men alluded to in the above affidavit were John Follard and Thomas Butler, who had been convicted; but, it being deemed expedient to grant them a pardon on condition of their appearing in support of a prosecution against Wild, they pleaded to the same, and were remanded to Newgate till the next sessions.

Saturday, the 12th of April, Wild, by counsel, moved that his trial might be postponed till the ensuing sessions; and an affidavit made by the prisoner was read in Court, purporting that till the preceding evening he was entirely ignorant of a bill having been found against him; that he knew not what offence he was charged with, and was unable to procure two material witnesses, one of them living near Brentford, and the other in Somersetshire. This was opposed by the counsel for the crown, who urged that it would be improper to defer the trial on so frivolous a pretext as that made by the prisoner; that the affidavit expressed an ignorance of what offence he was charged with, and yet declared that two nameless persons were material witnesses.

The prisoner informed the Court that his witnesses were — Hays, at the Pack Horse, on Turnham Green, and — Wilson, a clothier,

at Frome; adding that he had heard it slightly intimated that he was indicted for a felony upon a person named Stretham. Wild's counsel moved that the names of Hays and Wilson might be inserted in the affidavit, and that it should be again sworn to by the prisoner. The counsel for the prosecution observed that justice would not be denied the prisoner, though it could not be reasonably expected that he would be allowed any extraordinary favours or indulgences. Follard and Butler were, at length, bound each in the penalty of 500*l.* to appear at the ensuing sessions, when it was agreed that Wild's fate should be determined.

Saturday, May 15, 1725, Jonathan Wild was indicted for privately stealing in the house of Catherine Stretham, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, fifty yards of lace, the property of the said Catherine, on the 22d of January, 1724-5. He was a second time indicted for feloniously receiving from the said Catherine, on the 10th of March, ten guineas, on account, and under pretence, of restoring the said lace, without apprehending and prosecuting the felon who stole the property.

Previous to his trial Wild distributed among the jurymen, and other persons who were walking on the leads before the Court, a great number of printed papers, under the title of 'A List of Persons discovered, apprehended, and convicted of several Robberies on the Highway; and also for Burglary and Housebreaking; and also for returning from Transportation: by Jonathan Wild.' This list contained the names of thirty-five for robbing on the highway, twenty-two for housebreaking, and ten for returning from transportation. To the list was annexed the following *Nota Bene* :—

rested views in matters of this kind, but act from a principle of serving people under misfortune. I hope I shall soon be able to recover the other piece of lace, and to return you the ten guineas, and perhaps cause the thief to be apprehended. For the service I can render you I shall only expect your prayers. I have many enemies, and know not what will be the consequence of this imprisonment.'

The prisoner's counsel argued that as Murphy had deposed that Wild, Kelly, and herself, were concerned in the felony, the former could by no means be considered as coming within the description of the act on which the indictment was founded, for the act in question was not meant to operate against the actual perpetrators of felony, but to subject such persons to punishment as held a correspondence with felons.

The counsel for the crown observed that, from the evidence adduced, no doubt could remain of the prisoner's coming under the meaning of the act, since it had been proved that he had engaged in combinations with felons, and had not discovered them.

The judge recapitulated the arguments enforced on each side, and was of opinion that the case of the prisoner was clearly within the meaning of the act; for it was plain that he had maintained a secret correspondence with felons, and received money for restoring stolen goods to the owners, which money was divided between him and the felons, whom he did not prosecute. The jury pronounced him guilty, and he was executed at Tyburn on Monday, the 24th of May, 1725, along with Robert Harpham.

Wild, when he was under sentence of death, frequently declared

that he thought the service he had rendered the public in returning the stolen goods to the owners, and apprehending felons, was so great as justly to entitle him to the royal mercy. He said that, had he considered his case as being desperate, he should have taken timely measures for inducing some powerful friends at Wolverhampton to intercede in his favour; and that he thought it not unreasonable to entertain hopes of obtaining a pardon through the interest of some of the dukes, earls, and other persons of high distinction, who had recovered their property through his means. It was observed to him that he had trained up a great number of thieves, and must be conscious that he had not enforced the execution of the law from any principle of virtue, but had sacrificed the lives of a great number of his accomplices, in order to provide for his own safety, and to gratify his desire of revenge against such as had incurred his displeasure.

He was observed to be in an unsettled state of mind, and, being asked whether he knew the cause thereof, he said he attributed his disorder to the many wounds he had received in apprehending felons, and particularly mentioned two fractures of his skull, and his throat being cut by Blueskin.

He declined attending divine service in the chapel, excusing himself on account of his infirmities, and saying that there were many people highly exasperated against him, and therefore he could not expect but that his devotions would be interrupted by their insulting behaviour. He said he had fasted four days.

of the soul immediately after its departure from the body. He was advised to direct his attention to matters of more importance, and sincerely to repent of the crimes he had committed.

By his desire the Ordinary administered the sacrament to him, and during the ceremony he appeared to be somewhat attentive and devout. The evening preceding the day on which he suffered he inquired of the Ordinary whether self-murder could be deemed a crime, since many of the Greeks and Romans, who had put a period to their own lives, were so honorably mentioned by historians. He was informed that the most wise and learned heathens accounted those guilty of the greatest cowardice who had not fortitude sufficient to maintain themselves in the station to which they had been appointed by the providence of Heaven; and that the Christian doctrines condemned the practice of suicide in the most express terms.

He pretended to be convinced that self-murder was a most impious crime; but about two in the morning he endeavoured to put an end to his life by drinking laudanum: however, on account of the largeness of the dose, and his having fasted for a considerable time, no other effect was produced than drowsiness, or a kind of stupefaction. The situation of Wild being observed by two of his fellow-prisoners, they advised him to rouse his spirits, that he might be able to attend to the devotional exercises, and, taking him by the arms, they obliged him to walk, which he could not have done alone, being much afflicted with the gout. The exercise revived him a little, but he presently became exceedingly pale, then grew very faint; a profuse sweating ensued, and soon after-

wards his stomach discharged the greatest part of the laudanum. Though he was somewhat recovered, he was nearly in a state of insensibility; and in this situation he was put into the cart and conveyed to Tyburn.

In his way to the place of execution the populace treated this offender with remarkable severity, incessantly pelting him with stones, dirt, &c. and execrating him as the most consummate villain that had ever disgraced human nature.

Upon his arrival at Tyburn he appeared to be much recovered from the effects of the laudanum; and the executioner informed him that a reasonable time would be allowed him for preparing himself for the important change that he must soon experience. He continued sitting some time in the cart; but the populace were at length so enraged at the indulgence shown him, that they outrageously called to the executioner to perform the duties of his office, violently threatening him with instant death if he presumed any longer to delay. He judged it prudent to comply with their demands, and when he began to prepare for the execution the popular clamour ceased.

About two o'clock on the following morning the remains of Wild were interred in St. Pancras Church-yard; but a few nights afterwards the body was taken up (for the use of the surgeons, as it was supposed). At midnight a hearse and six was waiting at the end of Fig Lane, where the coffin was found the next day.

Wild had by the woman he married at Wolverhampton a son about nineteen years old, who came to London a short time before the execution of his father. He was a youth of so violent and ungovernable a disposition, that it was judged

texts of scripture, and concerning the intermediate state of the soul. The horrors of his guilt rushed upon his conscience with such force that reflection became intolerable; and, instead of repenting of his

enormous crimes, he employed the last of his moments that were enlightened by reason (the distinguished characteristic of humanity) in meditating the means of self-destruction.

VINCENT DAVIS,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

WHENEVER a man ill treats a woman, who by every action of her life shows herself his friend, the partner of his toil, and the consoler of his mind under worldly misfortunes, it is abominable; but what punishment awaits the execrable wretch who sheds the blood of such a wife? Such, however, shocking to relate, befell this abhorred murderer's wife, who appears to have possessed qualities deserving the protection of a good man. We have already, in the duty we owe the reader, had occasion to present too many instances of the flagitious conduct of females; but to the good we would repeat after the excellent poet Otway, and say,

There's in you all that we believe of Heaven,—

Amazing goodness, purity and truth,
Eternal joy, and everlasting love.

This shocking sinner, who followed the trade of a butcher in Smithfield, behaved with cruelty to his wife; and, though he had been married some years, accustomed himself to keep company with women of ill fame.

Going out one Sunday morning, he staid till noon; and, coming home to dinner, went out again soon afterwards, and was directly followed by his wife, who found him drinking with some bad women at a house in Pye Corner; and, coming home, mentioned this circumstance to her neighbours.

Soon afterwards the husband returned, and, using some threatening expressions, the wife desired a lodger in the same house to go down stairs with her, lest he should beat her. The woman accordingly attended her, and was witness to Davis's beating her in a barbarous manner, and threatening to murder her, because she had interrupted him while in the company of the other women. Hereupon the wife ran away, and secreted herself for a time; but, returning to his lodgings, begged admission into her landlady's room, who hid her behind the bed. In the interim the husband had been out; but, returning, went to bed; and, when his wife thought he was asleep, she went into the room to search his pockets, in which she found only a few halfpence, and, coming down stairs, said that her husband had laid a knife by the bed-side, from which she concluded that he had an intention of murdering her.

Mrs. Davis being concealed during the night, the landlady went into her husband's room in the morning, and said, 'What do you mean by threatening to commit murder in my house?' On this he snatched up his knife; and the landlady taking hold of a small cane, he took it from her, saying he valued it as his life, as he kept it to beat his wife with.

In the evening of this day, the

wife and landlady finding him at the before-mentioned house in Pye Corner, he beat his wife most severely; on which the landlady advised Mrs. Davis to swear the peace against him, and have him imprisoned, as she had done on a similar occasion. About an hour after this he went home, and said to his wife, 'What business have you here, or any where in my company?—You shall follow me no more, for I am married to little Jenny.'

The wife, who seems to have had more love for him than such a miscreant deserved, said she could not help it, but she would drink with him and be friends; and, on his taking his supper to an alehouse, she followed him; but soon returned, with her hands bloody, saying he had cut her fingers.

On his return he directed his wife to light him to his room, which she did, and earnestly entreated him to be reconciled to her; but, instead of making any kind of reply, he drew his knife, and, following her into the landlady's room, he there stabbed her in the breast.

Thus wounded, the poor wretch ran down stairs, and was followed by the murderer. She was sheltered in a neighboring house, where, sitting down, and pulling off her stomacher, she bled to death in about half an hour.

In the interim the landlady called the watchmen, who soon apprehended Davis, and conducted him to the house where the dead woman lay; on which he said, 'Betty, won't you speak to me?' A woman who was present said, 'You will find to your sorrow, that she will never speak more;' and to this the murderer replied, 'Well, I know I shall be hanged;

and I would as soon suffer for her as another.'

Being committed to the care of a peace-officer, he was conveyed to prison, in his way to which he said, 'I have killed the best wife in the world, and I am certain of being hanged; but, for God's sake, don't let me be anatomized.'

When he was brought to his trial the above-recited facts were proved by the testimony of several witnesses; and, on the jury pronouncing a verdict of guilty, he execrated the Court with the most profane imprecations.

While he lay under sentence of death he affected a false bravery; but, when orders were given for his execution, his assumed courage left him, and he appeared greatly terrified, as well indeed he might, at his approaching fate. He had such a dread of falling into the hands of the surgeons, that he sent letters to several of his acquaintance, begging they would rescue his body, if any attempt should be made to take it away.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 30th of April, 1725, behaving in the most gloomy and reserved manner at the place of execution.

The anxiety this miserable wretch expressed for the care of his body, after having perpetrated such an unprovoked murder as he might well suppose would hazard the salvation of his soul, affords a melancholy picture how much concerned we can be for smaller matters, to the neglect of the more important. It should teach us how superior the value of the soul is to that of a poor frail carcass; since the former must exist to all eternity, while the latter, in a few years at the most, will moulder into dust!



Catherine Hayes and her Accomplices cutting off her Husband's Head.

CATHERINE HAYES,

BURN'T ALIVE FOR THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND.

We give the history of the enormous sins and dreadful sufferings of this abominable woman just as they came to our hands—altogether too shocking for a single comment.

Catherine Hayes was the daughter of a poor man of the name of Hall, who lived near Birmingham. She remained with her parents till she was about fifteen years old, and then, having a dispute with her mother, left her home, and set out with a view of going to London. Her person being rather engaging, some soldiers in the army, who met with her on the road, prevailed on her to accompany them to their quarters at Great Omborsley, in Worcestershire, where she remained with them a considerable time.—On being dismissed by these officers, she strolled

about the country, till, arriving at the house of Mr. Hayes, a farmer in Warwickshire, the farmer's wife hired her as a servant. When she had continued a short time in this service, Mr. Hayes's son fell violently in love with her, and a private marriage took place, which was managed in the following manner: Catherine left the house early in the morning, and the younger Hayes, being a carpenter, prevailed on his mother to let him have some money to buy tools; but as soon as he had got it he set out, and, meeting his sweetheart at a place they had agreed on, they went to Worcester, where the nuptial rites were celebrated. At this time it happened that the officers by whom she had been seduced were at Worces-

ter; and, hearing of her marriage, they caused young Hayes to be taken out of bed from his wife, under pretence that he had enlisted in the army. Thus situated, he was compelled to send an account of the whole transaction to his father, who, though offended with his son for the rash step he had taken, went to a magistrate, who attended him to Worcester, and demanded by what authority the young man was detained. The officers endeavoured to excuse their conduct; but the magistrate threatening to commit them to prison if they did not release him, the young fellow immediately obtained his liberty. The father, irritated at the imprudent conduct of his son, severely censured his proceedings; but, considering that what was passed could not be recalled, had good sense enough not to persevere in his opposition to an unavoidable event.—Mr. Hayes now furnished his son with money to begin business for himself; and the young couple were in a thriving way, and appeared to live in harmony; but Mrs. Hayes, being naturally of a restless disposition, prevailed on her husband to enlist for a soldier. The regiment in which he served being ordered to the Isle of Wight, Catherine followed him thither. He had not been long there before his father procured his discharge, which, as it happened in the time of war, was attended with an expense of 60*l*. On the return of young Hayes and his wife, the father gave them an estate of 10*l*. per annum, to which he afterwards added another of 16*l*. which, with the profit of their trade, would have been amply sufficient for their support. The husband bore the character of an honest well-disposed man; he treated his wife very indulgently, yet she constantly complained of the covetousness of his

disposition; but he had much more reason to complain of *her* disposition, for she was turbulent, quarrelsome, and perpetually exciting disputes among her neighbours. The elder Mr. H. observing with concern how unfortunately his son was matched, advised him to leave her, and settle in some place where she might not find him. Such, however, was his attachment to her, that he could not comply with this advice; and she had the power of persuading him to come to London, after they had been married about six years. On their arrival in the metropolis, Mr. Hayes took a house, part of which he let in lodgings, and opened a shop in the chandlery and coal trade, in which he was as successful as he could have wished. Exclusive of his profit by shop-keeping, he acquired a great deal of money by lending small sums on pledges, for at this time the trade of pawnbroking was followed by any one at pleasure, it having been then subjected to no regulation. Mrs. Hayes's conduct in London was still more reprehensible than it had been in the country. The chief pleasure of her life consisted in creating and encouraging quarrels among her neighbours; and, indeed, her unhappy temper discovered itself on every occasion. Sometimes she would speak of her husband, to his acquaintance, in terms of great tenderness and respect; and at other times she would represent him to her female associates as a compound of every thing that was contemptible in human nature. On a particular occasion, she told a woman of her acquaintance that she should think it no more sin to murder him than to kill a dog. At length her husband, finding she made perpetual disturbances in the neighbourhood, thought it prudent to remove to Tottenham Court Road, where he

carried on his former business; but not being as successful here as he could have wished, he took another house in Tyburn Road, since called Oxford Road. Here he continued his practice of lending small sums of money on pledges, till, having acquired a decent competency, he left off housekeeping, and hired lodgings near the same spot.—Thomas Billings, a journeyman tailor, and a supposed son of Mrs. Hayes by her former connexions, lodged in the house with Mrs. Hayes; and the husband having gone into the country on business, his wife and this man indulged themselves in every species of extravagance. On Hayes's return some of his neighbours told him how his wife had been wasting his substance, on which he severely censured her conduct, and, a quarrel arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows. It was commonly thought that she formed the resolution of murdering him at this time, as the quarrel happened only six weeks before his fatal exit. She now began to sound the disposition of Billings, to whom she said it was impossible for her to live longer with her husband; and she urged all possible arguments to prevail on him to aid her in the commission of the murder, which Billings resisted for some time, but at length complied.

At this period Thomas Wood, an acquaintance of Mr. Hayes, arrived from the country; and, as he was apprehensive of being impressed, Hayes kindly took him into his house, and promised to use his interest in procuring him some employment. After a few days' residence Mrs. Hayes proposed to him the murder of her husband: but the man was shocked at the thought of destroying his friend and benefactor, and told her he would have no concern in so atrocious a deed. However, she artfully urged that 'he was an

atheist, and it could be no crime to destroy a person who had no religion or goodness—that he was himself a murderer, having killed a man in the country, and likewise two of his own children; one of whom he buried under a pear-tree, and the other under an apple-tree.' She likewise said that her husband's death would put her in possession of 1500*l.*, of the whole of which Wood should have the disposal, if he would assist her and Billings in the perpetration of the murder. Wood went out of town a few days after this, and on his return found Mr. and Mrs. Hayes and Billings in company together, having drank till they had put themselves into the utmost apparent good humour. Wood sitting down at Hayes's request, the latter said they had drank a guinea's worth of liquor, but, notwithstanding this, he was not drunk. A proposal was now made by Billings, that, if Hayes could drink six bottles of mountain without being drunk, 'he would pay for it; but that Hayes should be the paymaster, if the liquor made him drunk, or if he failed of drinking the quantity.' This proposal being agreed to, Wood, Billings, and Mrs. Hayes, went to a wine-vault to buy the wine, and, on their way, this wicked woman reminded the men that the present would be a good opportunity of committing the murder, as her husband would be perfectly intoxicated. The mind of Wood was not yet wrought up to a proper pitch for the commission of a crime so atrocious as the murder of a man who had sheltered and protected him, and this too at a time when his mind must necessarily be unprepared for his being launched into eternity. Mrs. H. had therefore recourse to her former arguments, urging that it would be no sin to kill him; and Billings seconded all she said, and, declaring he was ready

to take a part in the horrid deed, Wood was at length prevailed on to become one of the execrable butchers. Thus agreed, they went to the wine-vault, where Mrs. Hayes paid half a guinea for six bottles of wine, which, being sent home by a porter, Mr. Hayes began to drink it, while his intentional murderers regaled themselves with beer. When he had taken a considerable quantity of the wine, he danced about the room like a man distracted, and at length finished the whole quantity: but, not being yet in a state of absolute stupefaction, his wife sent for another bottle, which he likewise drank, and then fell senseless on the floor. Having lain some time in this condition, he got, with much difficulty, into another room, and threw himself on a bed. When he was asleep, his wife told her associates that this was the time to execute their plan, as there was no fear of any resistance on his part. Accordingly Billings went into the room with a hatchet, with which he struck Hayes so violently that he fractured his skull. At this time Hayes's feet hung off the bed, and the torture arising from the blow made him stamp repeatedly on the floor, which being heard by Wood, he also went into the room, and, taking the hatchet out of Billings's hand, gave the poor man two more blows, which effectually dispatched him. A woman, named Springate, who lodged in the room over that where the murder was committed, hearing the noise occasioned by Hayes's stamping, imagined that the parties might have quarrelled in consequence of their intoxication; and going down stairs, she told Mrs. Hayes that the noise had awakened her husband, her child, and herself. Catherine had a ready answer to this: she said some company had visited them, and were grown merry, *but they were on the point of taking*

their leave; with which answer Mrs. Springate returned to her room well satisfied. The murderers now consulted on the best manner of disposing of the body, so as most effectually to prevent detection. Mrs. Hayes proposed to cut off the head, because, if the body was found whole, it would be more likely to be known. The villains agreeing to this proposition, she fetched a pail, lighted a candle, and all of them going into the room, the men drew the body partly off the bed, when Billings supported the head, while Wood, with his pocket-knife, cut it off, and the infamous woman held the pail to receive it, being as careful as possible that the floor might not be stained with the blood. This being done, they emptied the blood out of the pail into a sink by the window, and poured several pails of water after it; but, notwithstanding all this care, Mrs. Springate observed some congealed blood the next morning; though at that time she did not in the least suspect what had passed. It was likewise observed that the marks of the blood were visible on the floor for some weeks afterwards, though Mrs. Hayes had washed and scraped it with a knife. When the head was cut off, this she-devil recommended the boiling it till the flesh should part from the bones; but the other parties thought this operation would take up too much time, and therefore advised the throwing it into the Thames, in expectation that it would be carried off by the tide, and sink. This agreed to, the head was put into the pail, and Billings took it under his great coat, being accompanied by Wood; but, making a noise in going down stairs, Mrs. Springate called, and asked what was the matter; to which Mrs. Hayes answered that her husband was going a journey, and, with incredible dis-

simulation, affected to take leave of him; and, as it was now past eleven, pretended great concern that he was under a necessity of going at so late an hour. By this artifice Wood and Billings passed out of the house unnoticed, and went to Whitehall, where they intended to have thrown in the head; but the gates being shut, they went to a wharf near the Horse Ferry, Westminster. Billings putting down the pail, Wood threw the head into the dock, expecting it would have been carried away by the stream; but at this time the tide was ebbing, and a lighterman, who was then in his vessel, heard something fall into the dock, but it was too dark for him to distinguish objects. The murderers, having thus disposed of the head, went home, and were let in by Mrs. Hayes, without the knowledge of the lodgers. On the following morning, soon after day-break, as a watchman, named Robinson, was going off his stand, he saw the pail, and, looking into the dock, observed the head of a man. Having procured some witnesses to this spectacle, they took out the head; and, observing the pail to be bloody, concluded that it was brought therein from some distant part. The lighterman now said that he had heard something thrown into the dock; and the magistrates and parish officers, having assembled, gave strict orders that the most diligent search should be made after the body, which, however, was not found till some time afterwards; for, when the murderers had conversed together on the disposal of the body, Mrs. Hayes had proposed that it should be put into a box and buried; and the others agreeing to this, she purchased a box, which, on being sent home, was found too little to contain it: she therefore recommended the chopping off the legs and arms, which was done; but the box being still too small, the thighs were likewise cut off, all the parts packed up together, and the box put by till night, when Wood and Billings took out the pieces of the mangled body, and, putting them into two blankets, carried them into a pond near Mary-lebone; which being done, they returned to their lodgings, and Mrs. Springate, who had still no suspicion of what had passed, opened the door for them. In the interim the magistrates directed that the head should be washed clean, and the hair combed, after which it was put on a pole in the churchyard of St. Margaret, Westminster, that an opportunity might be afforded for its being viewed by the public.*

* It was formerly customary to oblige persons suspected of murder to touch the murdered body, for the discovery of their guilt or innocence.

This way of finding murderers was practised in Denmark by King Christianus II. and permitted all over his kingdom; the occasion whereof is this:—Certain gentlemen being on an evening together in a stove, or tavern, fell out among themselves, and from words came to blows, (the candles being out,) insomuch that one of them was stabbed with a poniard. Now the murderer was unknown, by reason of the number, although the person stabbed accused a pursuivant of the king's, who was one of the company.

The king, to find out the homicide, caused them all to come together in the stove, and, standing round the corpse, he commanded that they should, one after another, lay their right hand on the slain gentleman's naked breast, swearing that they had not killed him. The gentlemen did so, and no sign appeared against them; the pursuivant only remained, who, condemned before in his own conscience, went, first of all, and kissed the dead man's feet; but, as soon as he had laid his hand upon his breast, the blood gushed forth in abundance, both out of his wound and his nostrils; so that, urged by this evident accusation, he confessed the murder, and was, by the king's own sentence, immediately beheaded. Such was the origin of this practice, which was so common in many of the countries in Europe, for finding out unknown murderers.

Orders were likewise given that the parish officers should attend this exhibition of the head, to take into custody any suspicious person who might discover signs of guilt on the sight of it.

The high constable of Westminster, on a presumption that the body might, on the following night, be thrown where the head had been, gave private orders to the inferior constables to attend during the night, and stop all coaches, or other carriages, or persons with burdens, coming near the spot, and examine if they could find the body, or any of the limbs. The head being exposed on the pole so excited the curiosity of the public, that immense crowds of people, of all ranks, went to view it; and among the rest was a Mr. Bennet, apprentice to the king's organ-builder, who, having looked at it with great attention, said he thought it was the head of Hayes, with whom he had been some time acquainted; and hereupon he went to Mrs. Hayes, and, telling her his suspicions, desired she would go and take a view of the head. In answer hereto she told him that her husband was in good health, and desired him to be cautious of what he said, as such a declaration might occasion Hayes a great deal of trouble; on which, for the present, Bennet took no farther notice of the affair. A journeyman tailor, named Patrick, who worked in Monmouth Street, having likewise taken a view of the head, told his master on his return that he was confident it was the head of Hayes; on which some other journeymen in the same shop, who had likewise known the deceased, went and saw it, and returned perfectly assured that it was so. Now Billings worked at *this very shop in Monmouth Street: one of these journeymen observed,*

therefore, to him, that he must know the head, as he lodged in Hayes's house; but Billings said he had left him well in bed when he came to work in the morning, and therefore it could not belong to him. On this same day Mrs. Hayes gave Wood a suit of clothes which had belonged to her husband, and sent him to Harrow-on-the-Hill. As Wood was going down stairs with the bundle of clothes, Mrs. Springate asked him what he had got; to which Mrs. Hayes readily replied, A suit of clothes he had borrowed of an acquaintance. On the second day after the commission of the murder, Mrs. Hayes being visited by a Mr. Longmore, the former asked what was the news of the town; when the latter said that the public conversation was wholly engrossed by the head which was fixed in St. Margaret's churchyard. Hereupon Catherine exclaimed against the wickedness of the times, and said she had been told that the body of a murdered woman had been found in the fields that day. Wood coming from Harrow-on-the-Hill on the following day, Catherine told him that the head was found; and giving him some other clothes that had belonged to her husband, and five shillings, said she would continue to supply him with money. After the head had been exhibited four days, and no discovery made, a surgeon named Westbrook was desired to put it in a glass of spirits, to prevent its putrefying, and keep it for the farther inspection of all who chose to take a view of it, which was accordingly done. Soon after this Mrs. Hayes quitted her lodgings, and removed to the house of Mr. Jones, a distiller, paying Mrs. Springate's rent also at the former lodgings, and taking her with her. Wood and Billings like-

wise removed with her, whom she continued to supply with money, and employed herself principally in collecting cash that had been owing to her late husband. A sister of Mr. Hayes's, who lived in the country, having married a Mr. Davies, Hayes had lent Davies some money, for which he had taken his bond. Catherine finding this bond among Mr. Hayes's papers, she employed a person to write a letter in the name of the deceased, demanding ten pounds in part of payment, and threatening a prosecution in case of refusal. Mr. Hayes's mother being still living, and Davies unable to pay the money, he applied to the old gentlewoman for assistance, who agreed to pay the sum on condition that the bond was sent into the country; and wrote to London, intimating her consent so to do, having no suspicion of the horrid transaction which had taken place. Amongst the incredible numbers of people who resorted to see the head was a poor woman from Kingsland, whose husband had been absent from the very time that the murder was perpetrated. After a minute survey of the head, she believed it to be that of her husband, though she could not be absolutely positive. However, her suspicions were so strong, that strict search was made after the body, on a presumption that the clothes might help her to ascertain it. Meanwhile, Mr. Hayes not being visible for a considerable time, his friends could not help making inquiry after him. A Mr. Ashby, in particular, who had been on the most friendly terms with him, called on Mrs. Hayes, and demanded what had become of her husband. Catherine pretended to account for his absence by communicating the following intelligence, as a matter that must be kept profoundly secret: 'Some time ago (said she) he happened to have a dispute with a man, and from words they came to blows, so that Mr. Hayes killed him. The wife of the deceased made up the affair, on Mr. Hayes's promising to pay her a certain annual allowance; but he not being able to make it good, she threatened to inform against him, on which he has absconded.' This method of accounting for the absence of his friend was by no means satisfactory to Mr. Ashby, who asked her if the head that had been exposed on the pole was that of the man who had been killed by her husband. She readily answered in the negative, adding, that the party had been buried entire; and that the widow had her husband's bond for the payment of fifteen pounds a year. Ashby inquired to what part of the world Mr. Hayes was gone: she said to Portugal, in company with some gentlemen; but she had yet received no letter from him. The whole of this story seeming highly improbable to Mr. Ashby, he went to Mr. Longmore, a gentleman nearly related to Hayes, and it was agreed between them that Mr. Longmore should call on Catherine, and have some conversation, but not let her know that Ashby had been with him, as they supposed that, by comparing the two accounts together, they might form a very probable judgment of the matter of fact. Accordingly Longmore went to Catherine, and inquired after her husband. In answer to his questions, she said she presumed Mr. Ashby had related the circumstance of his misfortune; but Longmore replied that he had not seen Ashby for a considerable time, and expressed his hope that her husband was not imprisoned for debt. 'No,' she replied, 'it is much worse than that.' 'Why,' said Longmore, 'has he

the morning of this day, as a gentleman and his servant were crossing the fields near Marylebone, they observed something lying in a ditch, and, taking a nearer view of it, found that it consisted of some of the parts of a human body. Shocked at the sight, the gentleman dispatched his servant to get assistance to investigate the affair farther; and some labouring men being procured, they dragged the pond, and found the other parts of the body wrapped in a blanket, but no head was to be found. A constable brought intelligence of this fact while Mrs. Hayes was under examination before the justices, a circumstance that contributed to strengthen the idea conceived of her guilt. Notwithstanding this, she still persisted in her innocence: but the magistrates, paying no regard to her declarations, committed her to Newgate for trial. Wood being at this time out of town, it was thought prudent to defer the farther examination of Billings and Springate till he should be taken into custody. On the morning of the succeeding Sunday he came on horseback to the house where Mrs. Hayes had lodged when the murder was committed; when he was told that she had removed to Mr. Jones's. Accordingly he rode thither, and inquired for her; when the people, knowing that he was one of the parties charged with the murder, were disposed to take him into custody: however, their fear of his having pistols prevented their doing so; but, unwilling that such an atrocious offender should escape, they told him that Mrs. Hayes was gone to the Green Dragon, in King Street, on a visit (which house was kept by Mr. Longmore), and they sent a person with him, to direct him to the place. The brother of Longmore being at the door on his arrival, and knowing him well, pulled

him from his horse, and accused him of being an accomplice in the murder. He was immediately delivered to the custody of some constables, who conducted him to the house of Justice Lambert, before whom he underwent an examination; but, refusing to make any confession, he was sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell for farther examination. On his arrival at the prison he was informed that the body had been found: and, not doubting but that the whole affair would come to light, he begged that he might be carried back to the justice's house. This being made known to Mr. Lambert, he sent for the assistance of two other magistrates, and the prisoner being brought up, he acknowledged the particulars of the murder, and signed his confession. It is thought that he entertained some hope of being admitted an evidence; but as his surrender was not voluntary, and his accomplices were in custody, the magistrates told him he must abide the verdict of a jury. This wretched man owned that, since the perpetration of the crime, he had been terrified at the sight of every one he met, that he had not experienced a moment's peace, and that his mind had been distracted with the most violent agitations. His commitment was made out for Newgate; but so exceedingly were the passions of the populace agitated on the occasion, that it was feared he would be torn to pieces by the mob; wherefore it was thought prudent to procure a guard of a sergeant and eight soldiers, who conducted him to prison with their bayonets fixed. A gentleman, named Mercer, having visited Mrs. Hayes in Newgate the day before Wood was taken into custody, she desired he would go to Billings, and urge him to confess the whole truth, as the proofs of their guilt were such,

that no advantage could be expected from a farther denial of the fact. Accordingly the gentleman went to Billings, who, being carried before Justice Lambert, made a confession agreeing in all its circumstances with that of Wood; and thereupon Mrs. Springate was set at liberty, as her innocence was evident from their concurrent testimony. Numbers of people now went to see Mrs. Hayes in Newgate; and on her being asked what could induce her to commit so atrocious a crime, she gave very different answers at different times; but frequently alleged that Mr. Hayes had been an unkind husband to her, a circumstance which was contradicted by the report of every person who knew the deceased. In the history of this woman there is a strange mystery. She called Billings her son, and sometimes averred that he was really so; but he knew nothing of her being his mother, nor did her relations know any thing of the birth of such a child. To some people she would affirm he was the son of Mr. Hayes, born after marriage; but that, his father having an aversion to him while an infant, he was put to nurse in the country, and all farther care of him totally neglected on their coming to London. But this story is altogether incredible, because Hayes was not a man likely to have deserted his child to the frowns of fortune; and his parents had never heard of the birth of such a son. Billings was equally incapable of giving a satisfactory account of his own origin. All he knew was, that he had lived with a country shoemaker, who passed for his father, and had sent him to school, and then put him apprentice to a tailor. It is probable she discovered him to be her son when she afterwards became acquainted with him in London; and as some persons, who came from the same part

of the kingdom, said that Billings was found in a basket near a farmhouse, and supported at the expense of the parish, it may be presumed that he was dropped in that manner by his unnatural mother.

Thomas Wood was born near Ludlow, in Shropshire, and brought up to the business of husbandry. He was so remarkable for his harmless and sober conduct, when a boy, as to be very much esteemed by his neighbours. On the death of his father, his mother took a public house for the support of her children, of whom this Thomas was the eldest; and he behaved so dutifully that the loss of her husband was scarcely felt. He was equally diligent abroad and at home; for, when the business of the house was insufficient to employ him, he worked for the farmers, by which he greatly contributed to the support of the family. On attaining years of maturity he engaged himself as a waiter at an inn in the country, from thence removed to other inns, and in all his places preserved a fair character. At length he came to London; but, being afraid of being impressed, as already mentioned, obtained the protection of Mr. Hayes, who behaved in a very friendly manner to him, till the arts of a vile woman prevailed on him to imbrue his hands in the blood of his benefactor.

Billings and Wood having already made confessions, and being penetrated with the thought of the heinous nature of their offence, determined to plead guilty to the indictment against them: but Mrs. Hayes, having made no confession, flattered herself there was a chance of her being acquitted, and therefore resolved to put herself on her trial, in which she was encouraged by some people that she met with in Newgate.

The malignancy of the crime with which this woman was charged induced the king to direct his own

counsel to carry on the prosecution; and these gentlemen did all in their power to convince the Court and jury that the most striking example should be made of one who had so daringly defied the laws of God and man. The indictment being opened, and the witnesses heard, the jury, fully convinced of the commission of the fact, found her guilty. The prisoners being brought to the bar to receive sentence, Mrs. Hayes entreated that she might not be burnt, according to the then law of petty treason, alleging that she was not guilty, as she did not strike the fatal blow; but she was informed by the Court that the sentence awarded by the law could not be dispensed with. Billings and Wood urged that, having made so full and free a confession, they hoped they should not be hung in chains; but to this they received no answer.

After conviction the behaviour of Wood was uncommonly penitent and devout; but while in the condemned hold he was seized with a violent fever, and, being attended by a clergyman to assist him in his devotions, he confessed he was ready to suffer death, under every mark of ignominy, as some atonement for the atrocious crime he had committed: however, he died in prison, and thus defeated the final execution of the law. At particular times Billings behaved with sincerity; but at others prevaricated much in his answers to the questions put to him. On the whole, however, he fully confessed his guilt, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and said no punishment could

be adequate to the excess of the crime of which he had been guilty. The behaviour of Mrs. Hayes was somewhat similar to her former conduct. Having an intention to destroy herself, she procured a phial of strong poison, which being casually tasted by a woman who was confined with her, it burnt her lips; on which she broke the phial, and thereby frustrated the design. On the day of her death Hayes received the sacrament, and was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution. Billings was executed in the usual manner, and hung in chains, not far from the pond in which Mr. Hayes's body was found, in Marylebone Fields. When the wretched woman had finished her devotions, an iron chain was put round her body, with which she was fixed to a stake near the gallows. On these occasions, when women were burnt for petty treason, it was customary to strangle them, by means of a rope passed round the neck, and pulled by the executioner, so that they were dead before the flames reached the body. But this woman was literally burnt alive; for the executioner letting go the rope sooner than usual, in consequence of the flames reaching his hands, the fire burnt fiercely round her, and the spectators beheld her pushing away the faggots, while she rent the air with her cries and lamentations. Other faggots were instantly thrown on her; but she survived amidst the flames for a considerable time, and her body was not perfectly reduced to ashes in less than three hours.* They suffered at Tyburn, May 9, 1726.

* Until the thirtieth year of the reign of king George III. this punishment was inflicted on women convicted of murdering their husbands, which crime is denominated petit-treason. It has frequently, from some accident happening in strangling the malefactor, produced the horrid effects above related. In the reign of Mary (the cruel) this death was commonly practised upon the objects of her vengeance; and many bishops, rather than deny their religious opinions, were burnt even without previous strangulation. It was high time this part of the sentence, the type of barbarism, should be dispensed with. The punishment now inflicted for this most unnatural and abhorred crime is hanging; but, once convicted, a woman need never look for mercy.

The story, however, is not able to bear the least examination. It is a mere fiction, and the whole is a tissue of lies. The executioner, it is said, was a man of a very different character from what is here represented. He was a man of a very different character from what is here represented. He was a man of a very different character from what is here represented.

ROBERT HARPHAM.

EXECUTED FOR COINING.

THIS offender lived in Westminster, where he carried on the business of a carpenter for a considerable time with some success; but at length had the misfortune to become a bankrupt, after which he appears to have turned his thoughts to a very dishonest way of acquiring money.

Having engaged the assistance of one Fordham, he hired a house near St. Paul's Churchyard, and, pretending to be a button-maker, he put up an iron press, with which he used to coin money, and Fordham, having aided him in the coinage, put off the counterfeit money thus made.

From hence they removed to Rosemary Lane, and there carried on the same dangerous business for some time, till the neighbours, observing that great quantities of charcoal were brought in, and the utmost precaution taken to keep the door shut, began to form very unfavorable suspicions: on which Harpham took a cellar in Paradise Row, near Hanover Square, to which the implements were removed.

While in this situation, Harpham invited a gentleman to dine with him; and was imprudent enough to take him into his workshop, and show him his tools. This gentleman wondering for what purpose they could be intended, Harpham said, 'In this press I can make buttons; but I will show you something else that is a greater rarity.' Having said this, he struck a piece of metal, which instantly bore the resemblance of half a guinea, except the milling on the edge; but another instrument being applied to it, the half-guinea was completed.

Our coiners now removed to Jermyn Street, St. James's, where Harpham took an empty cellar,

and, on the old pretence of button-making, gave orders to a bricklayer to put up a grate. The bricklayer remarking what a quantity of coals the grate would consume, the other said it was so much the better, for it was calculated to dress victuals, either by baking, stewing, roasting, or boiling.—Harpham kept the key of the cellar, permitting no one to enter but Fordham; and once in three weeks he had a quantity of charcoal and sea-coal put in through the window.

The landlord of the place, suspecting some illegal proceeding, desired his neighbours to watch the parties: in consequence of which Harpham was soon discovered in the attempt to put off counterfeit money; on which he and his assistant were apprehended and committed to Newgate; and Fordham being admitted an evidence, the other was convicted, and received sentence of death.

His behaviour after his commitment was unusually serious; for, as he was not weak enough to flatter himself with unreasonable hopes of life, so he began to make an early preparation for the important change that awaited him. He procured religious books, and exercised himself in the offices of devotion in a very earnest manner. He likewise resolved to eat no more food than should be absolutely necessary for the support of nature; and in this he persevered from the time of his conviction to the day of his death. He desired a person to awake him at three o'clock in the morning, and continued his devotions till midnight.

While he was thus properly employed, a person hinted to him that he might entertain some hope of a

reprieve; but he said he did not regard a reprieve on his own account; for that slavery, in a foreign country, was as much to be dreaded as death. Some questions being asked him respecting any accomplices he might have, he declined charging any particular person with a crime, but gave the Ordinary of Newgate a list of the names of some people whom he desired him to send to, requesting that they would reform the error of their ways.

The sacrament was administered to him in private on the day before his execution, at his own request, as he said he could not attend the duties of religion while exposed to the observation of a curious multitude.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 24th of May, 1725, after exhorting the persons present to beware of covetousness, and be content in the station allotted them by Providence.

To the particulars above recited little need be added by way of remark or instruction. The man who is wicked and foolish enough to be guilty of coining should consider that he is deliberately taking away his own life, in the very act of robbing the poor; for counterfeit money, though it pass for awhile among persons who have considerable sums to pay away, will ultimately remain in the hands of some mechanic or labourer, who has perhaps not another piece in the world but the base metal which he has taken.

Let us figure to ourselves, for a moment, the distress that such a person must endure; aggravated, possibly, by the hungry calls of a wife and numerous family; and then let any man lay his hand on his heart, and ask himself how few crimes there can be more atrocious than that of coining!

RICHARD SAVAGE, Esq. (*the celebrated Poet, son of the Earl of Rivers and the unnatural Countess of Macclesfield*); **JAMES GREGORY & WILLIAM MERCHANT, Esqs.**

MURDERERS.

RICHARD SAVAGE—a name the mention of which cannot fail to excite in every feeling mind the deepest emotions of pity, and whose almost unparalleled persecution, by an abandoned mother, tends to efface all recollection even of his many frailties—was born in 1698, having been the son of Anne, Countess of Macclesfield, by Captain Savage, afterwards Earl of Rivers. He might have been considered the lawful issue of Lord Macclesfield; but his mother, in order to procure a separation from her husband, made a public confession of adultery in this instance. As soon as her spurious offspring was brought to light, the countess treated him with every kind of unnatural cruelty. She

committed him to the care of a poor woman to educate as her own, and prevented the Earl of Rivers from making him a bequest of 6000*l.* by declaring he was already dead. She endeavoured to send him secretly to the American plantations; and at last, to bury him in obscurity and indigence for ever, placed him as an apprentice to a shoemaker in Holborn. About this period his nurse died; and, in searching her effects, Savage found some letters which unravelled the mystery of his origin. He therefore left his low occupation, and tried every method, but without avail, to awaken the tenderness and attract the regard of his mother. Being thus thrown upon the world without the aid of

any fostering hand, he availed himself of the portion of learning he had acquired at the grammar-school of St. Albans, and commenced author.

Savage's early productions do not seem to have afforded him either fame or profit; but in 1723 he produced a tragedy, in which himself performed a principal character, entitled 'Sir Thomas Overbury:' during his employment upon which he is said to have been without a lodging, and often without food; possessing no other conveniences for study than the fields or the street; and, when he had composed a speech, stepping into a shop, and begging the use of pen, ink, and paper. The profits of this play appear to have amounted to 200*l.*; and the world was beginning to regard this victim of maternal heartlessness with a more favorable eye, when the accident occurred which put not only his reputation but his life itself into jeopardy, and brought the name of Richard Savage within the gloomy boundaries of our criminal chronology.

We have before adverted to the frailties of the subject of this memoir. He was proud, vain, and dissipated; and the narrative we are about to give will show that he was destitute of that command over his passions which should be indicated in the conduct of every wise and virtuous man. But let the humane reader pause before he passes too severe a judgment upon poor Savage; and suffer the remembrance of his forlorn condition and unheard-of wrongs to cover, at least to a certain extent, 'a multitude of sins.'

In the month of December, 1727, this gentleman, together with James Gregory and William Merchant, was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of James Sinclair:—

Savage by giving him a mortal wound with a drawn sword in the lower part of the belly; and Gregory and Merchant by aiding and abetting in the commission of the said murder.

It appeared in evidence that these three gentlemen had accidentally come, at a late hour, much disguised in liquor, to Robinson's coffee-house at Charing Cross, and went into a room where a Mr. Sinclair and other company were drinking. Merchant, entering first, kicked down the table; and Savage and Gregory drawing their swords, they were earnestly desired to put them up, but refused to do so.

A scuffle now ensued, in which Mr. Sinclair received a mortal wound, and was heard to say 'I am a dead man:' soon after which the candles were extinguished.

Another witness deposed that, as he and some other company were on the point of leaving the house, the prisoners came in, when Merchant kicked down the table, and Gregory, going up to the deceased, said, 'Damn ye, you rascal, deliver your sword;' on which weapons were drawn, and the deceased wounded, as above mentioned: that the deceased had his sword drawn when the wound was given by Savage; but that he held it with the point down towards the ground; but neither this deponent nor the former observed that Merchant had any sword.

There were several other witnesses to prove the fact; but it may be now proper to mention how it happened that the parties accused came to the house where it occurred. Mr. Savage had at the time a lodging at Richmond, and another at London; and having come to town to pay off the latter, and casually meeting with Gregory and Merchant, with whom he had been acquainted for some time past, they

went to a coffee-house, where they drank till late in the evening. Savage would have engaged a bed at this place; but there not being accommodations for him, he and his friends went into the street, proposing to spend the night as they could, and in the morning to walk to Richmond. Strolling about, they saw a light in Robinson's coffee-house, into which they entered, and the fatal consequence ensued which we have already recited.

The perpetrators of this rash action having left the house, some soldiers were sent for, by whom they were taken into custody, and lodged in the round-house; and in the morning were carried before a magistrate, who committed them to the Gate-house; but Mr. Sinclair dying on the following day, they were sent to Newgate.

The deceased had been attended by a clergyman, who declared that he said he was stabbed before he had time to draw his sword; and his testimony was confirmed by that of other witnesses.

When the evidence was summed up, the Court observed to the jury, that, 'As the deceased and his companions were in possession of the room, if the prisoners were the aggressors, by coming into that room, kicking down the table, and immediately thereupon drawing their swords, without provocation, &c. it was murder, not only in him who gave the wound, but in those who aided and abetted him.'

After a trial of eight hours, the jury found Savage and Gregory guilty of murder, and Merchant guilty of manslaughter: in consequence of which the latter was burnt in the hand and discharged.

On the 11th of December, 1727, Richard Savage and James Gregory were brought to the bar, with other capital convicts, to receive sentence

of death; and being asked, in the customary manner, what they had to say why judgment should not be duly passed, Savage spoke as follows:

'It is now, my lords, too late to offer any thing by way of defence or vindication; nor can we expect aught from your lordships in this Court but the sentence which the law requires you, as judge, to pronounce against men in our calamitous condition.—But we are also persuaded that as mere men, and out of this seat of rigorous justice, you are susceptible of the tender passions, and too humane not to commiserate the unhappy situation of those whom the law sometimes perhaps *exacts* from you to pronounce sentence upon.

'No doubt you distinguish between offences which arise out of premeditation and a disposition habitual to vice or immorality, and transgressions which are the unhappy and unforeseen effects of a casual absence of reason and sudden impulse of passion; we, therefore, hope you will contribute all you can to an extension of that mercy which the gentlemen of the jury have been pleased to show Mr. Merchant, who (allowing facts as sworn against us by the evidence) has led us into this calamity.

'I hope this will not be construed as if we meant to reflect upon that gentleman, or remove any thing from us upon him, or that we repine the more at our fate because he has no participation of it: no, my lord! for my part, I declare nothing could more soften my grief than to be without any companion in so great a misfortune.'

It will scarcely be believed that, at this critical juncture, the inhuman countess exerted all her influence to prejudice the queen against her unhappy child, and to

render unavailing every intercession that might be made to procure for him the royal mercy : at length, however, the Countess of Hertford having laid an account of the extraordinary story and sufferings of poor Savage before her majesty, a pardon was obtained for him and his companion, and they were accordingly set at liberty on the 5th of March, 1728.

Our author had now recovered his liberty, but was destitute of all means of subsistence ; and his latter days appear to have been spent, for the most part, in abject poverty.

His distresses do not, however, seem to have overcome him. In his lowest sphere his pride sustained his spirits, and set him on a level with those of the highest rank. After enduring numberless privations, and disgusting almost all his friends by the heedlessness (and we are afraid we must add the ingratitude) of his disposition, Savage expired at Bristol, where he had been imprisoned for debt, August, 1743, in his 46th year, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Peter, at the expense of the gaoler.

ANTHONY DRURY,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THIS offender was a native of Norfolk, and the son of parents in reputable circumstances, who imprudently neglected to bring him up to any business ; so that, when he arrived at years of maturity, he wandered about the country curing smoky chimneys, which procured him the appellation of ' the smoky doctor' among those who knew his profession.

At length he married a woman who was said to possess a very considerable fortune ; but, whatever this fortune was, Drury never received more of it than 500*l*. He now lived some years with his wife at Andover, but occasionally ranged the country in search of that business in which he seemed to place his chief delight. His wife used every argument to prevail with him to remain at home ; but her solicitations were without effect.

Sometimes he would stroll to London, and bring with him valuable articles for his support ; and on one of these occasions he pawned

some plate for twenty pounds, dissipating the money in company with women of abandoned character.

By degrees he stripped his wife of great part of what should have supported her, so that she was obliged to the friendship of her relations for a maintenance. By a continued course of extravagance, he grew daily more and more vicious, and at length determined to commence highwayman.

In London he made an acquaintance with Robert King, the driver of the Bicester waggon. This King was a fellow of most execrable character, whose practice was to inform the highwaymen when he had any persons to travel in his waggon* who possessed any considerable sum of money, or valuable effects, that they might be robbed on the road ; on which occasions a share was always given to the driver.

Drury, being in company with this King, was told by him that a gentleman named Eldridge would travel in the waggon on the follow-

* Formerly people of great property used to travel in waggons ; but the frugal manners of our ancestors are abolished, and post-chaises and flying machines take place of the other carriages.

ing day, and that it would be prudent to rob him before he got far from town, as he would have with him a very considerable booty.

Our adventurer listened eagerly to this tale, and the next day robbed Mr. Eldridge of two hundred and fourteen guineas. As he took money only, he had very little apprehension of detection: but another traveller in the waggon, happening to know him, repaired to London, and gave information against him; whereupon he was taken into custody, and, being brought to trial, was convicted on full evidence.

After he received sentence of death his behaviour was consistent with his unhappy situation. He was a regular attendant on divine worship, and a constant peruser of books of religion: but at the same time he did every thing in his power to procure a respite of the fatal sentence.

Some people of consequence exerted themselves to obtain the royal mercy for Drury, but in vain: his character and crime militated too forcibly against him.

After conviction he repeatedly wrote to his wife, desiring her to come to London; and, among other motives to prevail on her, told her

that she might redeem the plate he had pawned: but all he could say had no effect; she lent a deaf ear to all his entreaties.

He appeared to be greatly disturbed in mind at this unfeeling indifference of his wife, which prevented the calmness of disposition that was requisite towards a proper preparation for his approaching exit.

Two days before his death he received the sacrament with every mark of real contrition. On the evening preceding his execution a gentleman sent a woman to inquire what declaration he would make respecting the waggoner; to whom he answered, that he had no idea of committing the crime till King proposed it to him; and that his life was sacrificed in consequence of his taking that advice.

When at the place of execution he appeared to possess more courage than he had done some time before, and again declared that the waggoner had seduced him to commit the robbery. He earnestly exhorted young people to avoid bad company, as what would most infallibly bring them to destruction.

This malefactor suffered at Tyburn, Nov. 3, 1726, in the twenty-eighth year of his age.

MARGARET DIXON,

MURDERER.

THE following case is more remarkable for resuscitation after execution than even the flagitious life of the condemned. Though some doubt may arise of her guilt regarding the crime of which she was convicted, none can be entertained of her being restored to existence after having hanged the usual time, and enjoying life more than thirty years afterwards.

This remarkable woman was the daughter of poor parents, who lived

at Musselburgh, about five miles from Edinburgh, and who brought up their child in the practice of religious duties, having instructed her in such household business as was likely to suit her future situation in life. The village of Musselburgh is almost entirely inhabited by gardeners, fishermen, and persons employed in making salt. The husbands having prepared the several articles for sale, the wives carry them to Edinburgh, and procure a

subsistence by crying them through the streets of that city. When Margaret Dixon had attained years of maturity, she was married to a fisherman, by whom she had several children: but, there being a want of seamen, her husband was impressed into the naval service; and, during his absence from Scotland, his wife had an illicit connexion with a man at Musselburgh, in consequence of which she became pregnant. At this time it was the law in Scotland that a woman known to have been unchaste should sit in a distinguished place in the church, on three Sundays, to be publicly rebuked by the minister; and many poor infants have been destroyed because the mother dreaded this public exposure,* particularly as many Scotch ladies went to church to be witnesses of the frailty of a sister, who were never seen there on any other occasion.

The neighbours of Mrs. Dixon averred that she was with child; but this she constantly denied, though there was every appearance that might warrant the discrediting what she said. At length, however, she was delivered of a child; but it is uncertain whether it was born alive or not.

Be this as it may, she was taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh. When her trial came on, several witnesses deposed that she had been frequently pregnant; others proved that there were signs of her having been delivered, and that a new-born infant had been found dead near the place of her residence.

The jury, giving credit to the evidence against her, brought in a verdict of guilty; in consequence of which she was doomed to suffer.

After her condemnation she behaved in the most penitent manner, confessed that she had been guilty of many sins, and even owned that she had departed from the line of duty to her husband; but she constantly and steadily denied that she had murdered her child, or even formed an idea of so horrid a crime. She owned that the fear of being exposed to the ridicule of her neighbours in the church had tempted her to deny that she was pregnant; and she said that, being suddenly seized with the pains of child-birth, she was unable to procure the assistance of her neighbours; and that a state of insensibility ensued, so that it was impossible she should know what became of the infant.

At the place of execution her behaviour was consistent with her former declaration. She avowed her total innocence of the crime of which she was convicted, but confessed the sincerest sorrow for all her other sins.

After execution her body was cut down and delivered to her friends, who put it into a coffin, and sent it in a cart to be buried at her native place; but, the weather being sultry, the persons who had the body in their care stopped to drink at a village called Pepper-Mill, about two miles from Edinburgh. While they were refreshing themselves, one of them perceived the lid of the coffin move, and, uncovering it, the woman immediately sat up, and most of the spectators ran off, with every sign of trepidation.

It happened that a person who was then drinking in the public house had recollection enough to bleed her. In about an hour she was put to bed; and by the follow-

* This proves, in a striking manner, the value of our Foundling Hospital in London, which has, doubtless, been the means of saving numbers of infants who would otherwise have been destroyed.

ing morning she was so far recovered as to be able to walk to her own house.

By the Scottish law, which is in part founded on that of the Romans, a person against whom the judgment of the Court has been executed can suffer no more in future, but is thenceforward totally exculpated; and it is likewise held that the marriage is dissolved by the execution of the convicted party; which indeed is consistent with the ideas that common sense would form on such an occasion.

Mrs. Dixon, then, having been convicted and executed as above mentioned, the king's advocate could prosecute her no farther; but he filed a bill in the High Court of Judiciary against the sheriff, for omitting to fulfil the law. The husband of this revived convict married her publicly a few days after she was hanged! and she constantly denied that she had been guilty of the alleged crime. She was living as late as the year 1753. This singular transaction took place in the year 1728.

EDWARD BELLAMY,

EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

THIS malefactor was a native of London, and served his time to a tailor; but his apprenticeship was no sooner expired than he associated himself with some women of ill fame, and became a thief in order to support their extravagance. His commencement in the art of theft was with a number of young pick-pockets, and he soon became an adept in the profession. From this business they advanced a step farther. They used to go, three or four in company, to the shops of silversmiths in the evening, and, while one of them cheapened some article of small value, his companions used to secrete something of greater. It was likewise a practice with them to walk the streets at night, and, forcing up the windows of shops with a chisel, run off with any property that lay within their reach.

Having followed this infamous business about three years, Bellamy forged (an offence not then capital) a note, by which he defrauded a linen-draper of money to a considerable amount. Being taken into custody for this forgery, he was *lodged in Newgate*; but discharged.

without being brought to trial, his friends having found means to accommodate the matter with the injured party.

In a short time after he left Newgate he made connexions with Jonathan Wild, who used frequently to borrow money of a Mr. Wildgoose, who kept an inn in Smithfield; and Bellamy, wishing to become acquainted with a man whom he thought he could make subservient to his interest, applied to Jonathan to recommend him to Wildgoose; but this the famous thief-taker absolutely refused.

Having often gone with messages and notes from Jonathan to Wildgoose, and being well acquainted with the handwriting of the former, he forged a draft on the latter for ten guineas, which Wildgoose paid without hesitation; and, as soon as Bellamy had got the money, he omitted to pay his usual visits at Wild's office.

A few days after this transaction Wild went to his acquaintance to borrow some money, when Wildgoose told him he had paid his draft for the above-mentioned sum, and, producing the note, Jonathan could

not be certain that it was not his own handwriting, otherwise than by recollecting that he had never given such a draft. Wildgoose was unacquainted with Bellamy's name; but, by the description of his person, Jonathan soon found who had committed the forgery, on which he ordered his myrmidons to be careful to apprehend the offender. Bellamy was soon found in a lodging in Whitefriars, and Jonathan's men sent word to their master that they had him in custody, and begged he would give orders how they should dispose of him. In the interim, Bellamy, who expected no mercy from the old thief-taker, seized the advantage of the casual absence of his attendants from the room, fixed a rope to the bar of the window, and let himself into the street, though the room was three stories high.

He now entertained thoughts of accommodating the affair with Wild, imagining he should be treated with the utmost severity if he should be re-apprehended: but, before he had proceeded in this negotiation, Wild's men seized him at a gin-shop in Chapcerry Lane, and sent to their master for instructions how to act. To this message Jonathan returned an answer, that they might give him his liberty, on the condition that he should come to the office, and adjust the business with himself.

Hereupon Bellamy was discharged: but, knowing how dangerous it would be to affront Wild, he went the following morning to a public house in the Old Bailey, where he sent for Jonathan to breakfast with him; and the latter sending for Wildgoose, Bellamy gave him a note for the money received, and no farther steps were taken in the affair.

As soon as this business was adjusted Bellamy renewed his former

plan of making depredations on the public, and committed an immense number of robberies. He and one of his gang having broken the sash of a silversmith's shop in Russell Court, Drury Lane, a person who lay under the counter fired a blunderbuss at them, which obliged them to decamp without their booty. This attempt failing, they went to the house of another silversmith, which they broke open; and, finding the servant-maid sitting up for her master, they terrified her into silence, and carried off effects to a large amount.

Not long after this robbery they broke open the shop of a grocer near Shoreditch, in the expectation of finding cash to a great amount; but the proprietor having previously secured it, they got only about ten pounds of tea, and the loose money in the till.

Their next attempt was at the house of a hosier in Widegate Alley, from whose shop they carried off some goods of value, which they sold to the Jews on the following day.

From the shop of a silversmith, in Bride Lane, they carried off plate to the amount of fifty pounds; and from the house of a haberdasher in Bishopsgate Street a load of various articles, the whole of which they disposed of to the Jews.

On another occasion they broke open a tea-shop near Gray's Inn Lane: having removed the shutters, by cutting away part of them with chisels, they were going to lift up the sash, when a person from within, hearing them, cried out 'thieves!' on which they ran off without their booty.

Having broken into a tea-warehouse near Aldgate, they had packed up valuable parcels of goods, when the maid-servant came down stairs undressed, and without a candle.

Having gone into the yard, she returned, without knowing that they were in the house; but, when she came into the shop, Bellamy seized her, and obliged her to lie on the floor while they went off with their booty: and the same night they broke open the shop of a mercer in Bishopsgate Street, whence they carried off goods to a large amount.

Their next robbery was at the house of a grocer in Thames Street. The watchman passing by as they were packing up their booty, Bellamy seized him, and obliged him to put out his candle, to prevent any alarm being given. Having kept him till they were ready to go off with their plunder, they took him to the side of the Thames, and threatened to drown him if he would not throw in his lanthorn and staff. It need not be said that the poor man was obliged to comply with their injunctions.

Soon after this they stole a large sum of money, and a quantity of goods, from the house of a grocer, which they broke open in Aldersgate Street. A neighbour saw this robbery from his window, but was too much frightened to take any measures for the detection of the villains.

Their next exploit was at an old-clothes' shop, kept by a woman in Shadwell, whence they carried off every valuable article: and after this they robbed the shop of a hosier in Coleman Street, and took away goods to the amount of seventy pounds, which the thieves divided into shares, and sold them to their old acquaintances, the Jews.

They were disappointed in their next attempt, which was to break open the house of a linen-draper in Westminster; for, some people coming up before they had completed their operations, they were obliged to decamp with precipitation.

On the evening after this transaction, observing the door of a shop shut in St. Clement's Churchyard, they made it fast with a cord on the outside, and, throwing up the sash, stole a very large number of silk handkerchiefs, while a woman in the shop made many fruitless attempts to open the door: and they stole a variety of plate, wearing apparel, and other effects, the same night, from two houses in Holborn.

Soon after this they stole goods to the amount of twenty pounds from a house which they broke open in Red Lion Street; and, breaking another the same night in Fallwood's Rents, obtained about an equal booty.

While they were thus rendering themselves the very pests of society, they became intimate with an old woman who had opened an office near Leicester Fields for the reception of stolen goods, something on the plan of that of Jonathan Wild. To this woman Bellamy and his companions used to sell much of their ill-gotten effects: but she having, on one occasion, given a smaller price than they expected, Bellamy determined on a plan of revenge; in pursuance of which he went to her office with a small quantity of stolen plate; and, while she was gone with it to a silversmith, he broke open her drawers, and carried off her cash to a large amount.

His next adventures were, the breaking open a house in Petticoat Lane, and another in Grocers' Alley, in the Poultry, at both of which places he made large prizes; and soon afterwards he stopped a man near Houndsditch, and robbed him of his money.

At length he robbed a shop in Monmouth Street; but by this time he had rendered himself so conspicuous for his daring villainies, that a reward of 100*l.* was offered for

the apprehending him; in consequence of which he was taken near the Seven Dials on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

For this last fact he was tried, convicted, and received sentence. From this time till the arrival of the warrant for his execution he affected a cheerfulness of behaviour, and said that he would be hanged in his shroud; but the certainty that he should suffer, and the sight of his

coffin, excited more serious ideas in his mind; and he received the sacrament a few days before his death with evident marks of repentance for the many crimes of which he had been guilty. He was executed at Tyburn, on the 27th of March, 1728; and, just before he was turned off, made a speech to the surrounding multitude, in which he confessed his numerous offences, and acknowledged the justice of his sentence.

JAMES CLUFF,

MURDERER; EXECUTED ON AN APPEAL, AFTER BEING ACQUITTED.

THIS unhappy young man was born in Clare Market, and lived as waiter at several public houses, in all of which he maintained an extraordinary character for diligence, civility, and integrity.

Mr. Payne, master of the Green Lattice in Holborn, having hired Cluff, he, during his residence there, fell in love with Mary Green, his fellow-servant; but she, being courted by another man, constantly rejected his addresses, which frequently agitated his mind in the most violent degree.

Green's other lover, coming to see her, sat in the same box with her, and was received in an affectionate manner. This did not seem to be much regarded by Cluff, who was then engaged in attending the customers; but, when the lover was gone, Mr. Payne, perceiving that something had discomposed Cluff's mind, asked him the reason of it, but could not prevail on him to tell the cause.

While Mr. Payne and his wife were at dinner in the parlour, and the girl eating her dinner in one of the boxes, Mrs. Payne heard a noise, as if two persons were struggling; and, going into the tap-room, Cluff said, 'Come hither, madam.' On this she advanced, and saw the pri-

soner holding the deceased by the shoulders, who was sitting on the floor, and speechless, while the blood streamed from her in large quantities.

Mrs. Payne called out, 'What have you been doing, James?' He said, 'Nothing.' He was asked if he had seen her hurt herself. He said 'No; but that he had seen her bring up a knife from the cellar, where she had been to draw some beer for her dinner.' Mr. Payne now entered the tap-room, and then went into the cellar, to discover if there was any blood there: but, finding none, he accused Cluff, on suspicion, of having committed the murder; and instantly sent for a surgeon.

When the surgeon arrived, he found that a knife had been impelled into the upper part of the thigh, and had entered the body of the girl in such a manner that she could not survive the stroke more than a minute.

A bloody knife was found in the room, and Cluff was committed to Newgate for the murder. On his trial, the surgeon deposed that the knife fitted the wound that had been made, and that he believed the woman had not killed herself; but the jury acquitted the prisoner, from

what they deemed insufficiency of evidence.

The discharge of the accused party would now have followed of course; but William Green, the brother and heir of the deceased, immediately lodged an appeal; in consequence of which Cuff was brought to trial at the next sessions but one, when his case was argued with the utmost ingenuity by the counsel for and against him; but this second jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to die.

After conviction his behaviour was the most devout and resigned that could be imagined: he exercised himself in every act of devotion, but solemnly declared his perfect innocence with respect to the murder.

He was visited by his friends, who earnestly entreated him to make a sincere confession, especially as, in his case, it was not in the power of the king himself to grant a pardon. In answer hereto, he freely confessed all his other crimes; but, saying he would not rush into eternity with a lie in his mouth, again steadily denied the perpetration of the crime of which he had been convicted.

The clergyman who attended him urged him to the confession of his guilt, and even refused to administer the sacrament to him, on the morning of his execution, on any other terms than those of acknowledging his crime: but nothing could shake his resolution; he still steadily persisted in his innocence.

On his way to the place of execution, he desired to stop at the door of his late master; which being granted, he called for a pint of wine, and, having drank a glass of it, addressed Mr. Payne in the following terms:

'Sir, you are not insensible that I am going to suffer an ignominious death for a crime of which I de-

clare I am not guilty. As I am to appear before my Judge in a few moments, to answer for all my past sins, I hope you and my good mistress will pray for my poor soul. God bless you, and all your family.

At the place of execution he behaved in the most composed, devout, and resigned manner; and seemed to possess his mind in the consciousness of innocence. There was a great concourse of spectators to witness his fatal end; to whom he spoke in the following manner: 'Good people, I am going to die for a fact I never committed; I wish all mankind well; and, as I have prayed for my prosecutors, I hope my sins will be forgiven through the merits of my ever-blessed Redeemer. I beg you to pray for my departing soul; and, as to the fact I now die for, I wish I was as free from all other sins.'

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 25th of July, 1729, exhibiting no signs of fear to his last moment.

The case of this man is very extraordinary. The evidence against him was at best but circumstantial, and this not supported with such strong corroborative proofs as have occasioned conviction in many other instances. No person was witness to his commission of the murder, nor was there any absolute proof that he did commit it; and from the steady perseverance with which he denied it, under the most awful circumstances, and at the very concluding scene of his life, charity would tempt one to believe that he was innocent.

Ought not this case to afford a lesson of caution to juries how they convict on circumstantial evidence? Is it not better that the guilty should escape than the innocent be punished? All the decrees of mortals are liable to error; but the time will come when all mists shall be

cleared from our sight, and we shall witness to the wisdom of those laws of Providence which are now inscrutable to mortal eyes. Then shall we see that what appeared inexplicable to us was divinely right; and learn to admire that wisdom

which, at present, so much exceeds our finite comprehension.

In the mean time we ought to adore that goodness we cannot comprehend, and rest satisfied with those dispensations which are eternally and immutably just.



Everett and Bird robbing a Stage-Coach on Hounslow Heath.

JOHN EVERETT,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY,

Was a native of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, and had been well educated, his father possessing 300*l.* per annum. He was apprenticed to a salesman; but, running away from his master, he entered into the army, and served in Flanders, where he behaved so well that he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. On the return of his regiment to England he purchased his discharge, and, repairing to London, bought the place of an officer in White-chapel Court, in which he continued

about seven years; but, having given liberty to some persons whom he had arrested, one Charlesworth, a solicitor of that Court, caused him to be discharged, and then sued him for the amount of the debts of the parties whom his inconsiderate good nature had liberated. To evade imprisonment, Everett enlisted in Lord Albemarle's company of foot-guards; and, soon after his again engaging in the army, he fell into company with Richard Bird, with whom he had been formerly acquainted.

perfectly instructed him in the management of the prison, he dismissed him, without assigning any reason for such ungenerous conduct.—Everett being now greatly in debt, and consequently obliged to remove within the rules of the Fleet prison, took a public house in the Old Bailey; after which he took the Cock alehouse, in the same street, which he kept three years with reputation, when the Warden of the Fleet persuaded him to keep the tap-house of the said prison. While in this station he was charged with being concerned with the keeper in some mal-practices, for which the House of Commons ordered him to be confined in Newgate; but he obtained his liberty at the end of the session, as no bill had been found against him. During his confinement his brewer seized his stock of beer, to the amount of 300*l.* which reduced him to circumstances of great distress; but he even now resolved on a life of industry, if he could have got employment; yet his character was such that no person would engage him. Thus perplexed, he once more equipped himself for the highway, with a view, as he solemnly declared after sentence of death, to raise only fifty pounds, as his brewer would have given him credit if he could have possessed himself of that sum. Having stopped a coach on the Hampstead road, in which were a lady, her daughter, and a child about five years old, the child was so terrified at his presenting a pistol, that he withdrew it at the request of the lady, who gave him a guinea and some silver; and though he observed she had a watch and some gold rings, &c. he did not demand them. Some company riding up, he was followed to the end of Leather Lane, where he evaded the pursuit by turning into Hatton Garden, and going into the Globe

tavern. Here he called for wine, and, while he was drinking, he saw his pursuers pass; on which he paid his reckoning, and slipped into a public house in Holborn, where he again saw them pass. Thinking himself safe, he remained here a considerable time. When he thought the pursuit was over, he called a coach at the end of Brook Street, and, driving to Honey Lane Market, purchased a duck for his supper, and a turkey for his Christmas dinner: he then went to his lodging in Newgate Market. On the following day one Whitaker (called 'the boxing drover') circulated a report that Everett had committed a highway robbery; on which the latter loaded a brace of pistols, and vowed he would be revenged. He went to Islington in search of Whitaker, and visited several public houses which he used to frequent; but, not meeting with him, the crime of murder was happily prevented. A woman in the neighbourhood of Newgate Market having buried her husband, who had left her enough to support herself and children with decency, Everett repeatedly visited the widow, was received with too great marks of esteem, and assisted her in the dissipation of that money which should have provided for her family. The widow's son, jealous of this connexion, remonstrated with his mother on the impropriety of her conduct, and told her it would end in her ruin. This made Everett and her more cautious in their meetings; but the son watched them with the utmost degree of vigilance and circumspection. Having one evening observed them go into a tavern, he provided himself with a large and sharp knife, and, entering the room where they were sitting, swore he would stab Everett to the heart; but the latter, by superiority of strength, disarmed him. The young

This Bird hinted that advantages might be acquired in a particular way, if Everett trusted; and the latter, not knowing what the plan was, that it was to go on the 10th, which an agreement was immediately concluded. Hereupon set out on their expedition, robbed several stages in the parishes adjacent to London, from which they obtained considerable quantities of jewels, money, and effects. Thus successful in their first exploits, they went to St. John's Heath, where they met two military officers, who were attended by servants armed with blunderbusses; but they persuaded them to submit, and robbed them of their money and watches. These were afterwards, according to agreement, at a house near Charing Cross, and the thieves received twenty guineas for restoring them. Soon after they stopped a gentleman in a chaise, near Epsom. The man drew his sword, and made several passes at them; yet they robbed him of his watch, and his money, his sword, and some wine; but they returned the wine for the earnest request of the party. They also made a party of robbing the butchers and bakers on Epping Forest, on the 11th of London. One of these was singular:—Meeting a woman, a higgler, they took the lining of a high-crown, which she said had been her father's, in which they found three pounds; but returned it. Soon after this they stopped on Hounslow Heath, in the company of two Quakers, who, called off violence, jumped out to oppose them; but the travellers making no resistance, begged them to stop.

JOHN ONEBY, ESQ.

MURDERER. (A MILITARY OFFICER.)

He an applicable, observation, was officer of the son of an eminent ell, in Leicester- an education taught him not of his country. him for his own and procured the niece of than Wright, Lord Keeper England. ed him to be o invaluable erior to what ambition had However, time, in ex ; but, fail- motion in this mission in the he Duke of al campaigns promoted in d of his mili- winter quar- close of one of had a quarrel r, which occa- Oneby, having was brought to t-martial, which he murder. being soon after- to Jamaica, Mr. h it, and, during Port Royal, fought h a brother officer, led in so dangerous he expired after an d months; but, as he y die, no farther: no- of the affair. major in a regiment d been conferred on

Mr. Oneby, in consequence of his services; but on the peace of Utrecht he returned to England, and was reduced to half-pay.

Repairing to London, he frequented the gaming-houses, and became so complete a gambler, that he commonly carried cards and dice in his pockets. Having fallen into company with some gentlemen at a coffee-house in Covent Garden, they all adjourned to the Castle Tavern, in Drury Lane, where they went to cards.

Mr. Hawkins, one of the company, having declined playing, Mr. Rich asked if any one would bet him three half-crowns. The bet was apparently accepted by William Gower, Esq. who in ridicule laid down three halfpence.

On this Major Oneby abused Gower, and threw a bottle at him; and, in return, Gower threw a glass at the other. Swords were immediately drawn on both sides; but, Mr. Rich interposing, the parties were apparently reconciled, and sat down to their former diversion.

Gower seemed inclined to compromise the affair, though the major had been the aggressor. In answer to this Oneby said he 'would have his blood;' and said to Mr. Hawkins that the mischief had been occasioned by him. Hawkins replied, 'he was ready to answer, if he had any thing to say:' to which Oneby said, 'I have another chap first.'

Mr. Hawkins left the company about three o'clock in the morning; soon after which Mr. Oneby arose, and said to Gower, 'Hark ye, young gentleman, a word with you;' on which they retired to another room, and shut the door. A clashing of swords being heard by the company, the waiter broke open

calculated to prejudice him in the opinion of his employers : but, conscious of the uprightness of his intentions, he did not reply in anger, only saying that there was a steward on board, who had the care of the provisions, and that all reasonable complaints should be redressed : on which the seamen retired with apparent satisfaction.

The wind being fair, the captain directed his men to weigh anchor as soon as the merchants had quitted the vessel. It was observed that Paterson, one of the complainants, was very dilatory in executing his orders ; on which the captain demanded why he did not exert himself to unfurl the sails ; to which he made no direct answer, but was heard to mutter, ' As we eat, so shall we work.' The captain heard this, but took no notice of it, as he was unwilling to proceed to extremities.

The ship had no sooner sailed than the captain considered his situation as dangerous, on reflecting that his conduct had been complained of, and his orders disobeyed. Hereupon he consulted the mate, and they agreed to deposit a number of small-arms in the cabin, in order to defend themselves in case of an attack. This precaution might have been extremely salutary, but that they spoke so loud as to be overheard by two of the conspirators, who were on the quarter-deck.

The captain likewise directed the mate to order Gow, who was second mate and gunner, to clean the arms ; a circumstance that must plainly insinuate to the latter that the conspiracy was at least suspected.

Those who had overheard the conversation between the captain and mate communicated the substance of it to Gow and the other conspirators, who thereupon re-

solved to carry their plan into immediate execution. Gow, who had previously intended to turn pirate, thought the present an admirable opportunity, as there were several chests of money on board the ship : wherefore he proposed to his companions that they should immediately embark in the enterprise ; and they determined to murder the captain, and seize the ship.

Half of the ship's company were regularly called to prayers in the great cabin at eight o'clock in the evening, while the other half were doing duty on deck ; and, after service, those who had been in the cabin went to rest in their hammocks. The contrivance was, to execute the plot at this juncture. Two of the conspirators only remained on duty, the rest being among those who retired to their hammocks.

Between nine and ten at night a kind of watchword was given, which was, ' Who fires first ?' On this some of the conspirators left their hammocks, and, going to the cabins of the surgeon, chief-mate, and supercargo, they cut their throats while they were asleep.

The surgeon, finding himself violently wounded, quitted his bed, and soon afterwards dropped on the floor, and expired. The mate and supercargo held their hands on their throats, and, going on the quarter-deck, solicited a momentary respite, to recommend their souls to Heaven : but even this favour was denied ; for the villains, who found their knives had failed to destroy them, dispatched them with pistols.

The captain, hearing a noise, demanded the occasion of it. The boatswain replied that he did not know ; but was apprehensive that some of the men had either fallen, or been thrown, overboard. The captain hereupon went to look over

the ship's side, on which two of the murderers followed, and tried to throw him into the sea; but he disengaged himself, and turned about to take a view of them; when one of them cut his throat, but not so as to kill him. He now solicited mercy; but, instead of granting it, the other stabbed him in the back with a dagger, and would have repeated his blow, but he had struck with such force that he could not draw back the weapon.

At this instant Gow, who had been assisting in the murders between the decks, came on the quarter-deck, and fired a brace of balls into the captain's body, which put a period to his life.

The execrable villains concerned in this tragical affair having thrown all the dead bodies overboard, Gow was unanimously appointed to the command of the ship.

Those of the sailors who had not been engaged in the conspiracy secreted themselves, some in the shrouds, some under the stores, in dreadful apprehension of sharing the fate of the captain and their murdered companions.

Gow now assembled his associates on the quarter-deck; and, appointing them their different stations on board, it was agreed to commence pirates. The new captain now directed that the men who had concealed themselves should be informed that no danger would happen to them if they did not interfere to oppose the new government of the ship, but kept such stations as were assigned them.

The men, whose fears had taught them to expect immediate death, were glad to comply with these terms; but the pirates, to enforce obedience to their orders, appointed two conspirators to attend with drawn cutlasses, to awe them, if necessary, into submission.

Gow and his companions now divided the most valuable effects in the cabin; and then, ordering liquor to be brought on the quarter-deck, they consumed the night in drinking, while those unconnected in the conspiracy had the care of working the ship.

The ship's crew originally consisted of twenty-four men, of whom four had been murdered, and eight were conspirators; and, before morning, four of the other twelve having approved of the proceedings of the pirates, there were only eight remaining in any kind of opposition to the usurped authority.

On the following day the new captain summoned these eight to attend him, and, telling them he was determined to go on a cruising voyage, said that they should be well treated if they were disposed to act in concert with the rest of the crew. He observed that every man should fare in the same manner, and that good order and discipline was all that would be required. He said further that the late captain's inhumanity had produced the consequences which had happened: that those who had not been concerned in the conspiracy had no reason to fear any ill resulting from it: that they had only to discharge their duty as seamen, and every man should be rewarded according to his merit.

To this address these unfortunate honest men made no kind of reply; and Gow interpreted their silence into an assent to measures which it was not in their power to oppose. After this declaration of the will of the new captain they were permitted to range the ship at pleasure; but, as some of them appeared to act very reluctantly, a strict eye was kept on their conduct; for, guilt being ever suspicious, the pirates were greatly apprehensive of being

brought to justice by means of some of these men.

An individual named Williams now acted as lieutenant of the vessel; and, being distinguished by the ferocity of his nature, he had an opportunity of exerting it by beating these unhappy fellows; a privilege he did not fail to exercise with a degree of severity that must render his memory detestable.

The ship thus seized had been called the *George Galley*, but the pirates gave her the name of the *Revenge*; and, having mounted several guns, they steered towards Spain and Portugal, in expectation of making a capture of wine, of which article they were greatly deficient.

They soon made prize of an English vessel laden with fish, bound from Newfoundland to Cadiz; but, having no use for the cargo, they took out the captain and four men, who navigated the ship, which they sunk.

One of the seamen whom they took out of the captured vessel was named James Belvin; a man admirably calculated for their purpose, as he was by nature cruel, and by practice hardened in that cruelty. He said to Gow that he was willing to enter into all his schemes, for he had been accustomed to the commission of acts of barbarity. This man was thought a valuable acquisition to the crew, as several of the others appeared to act from motives of fear rather than of inclination.

The next vessel taken by the pirates was a Scotch ship bound to Italy with pickled herrings; but this cargo, like the former, being of no use to them, they sunk the vessel, having first taken out the men, arms, ammunition, and stores.

After cruising eight or ten days, they saw a vessel about the size of

their own, to which they gave chase. She hoisted French colours, and crowded all her sail in order to get clear of them; and, after a chase of three days and nights, they lost her in a fog.

Being distressed for water, they now steered towards the *Madeira Islands*, of which they came in sight in two days; but, not thinking it prudent to enter the harbour, they steered off and on for several days, in the hope of making prize of some Portuguese or Spanish vessel; but these expectations were frustrated.

Their distress increasing, they stood in for the harbour, and brought the ship to an anchor, but at a considerable distance from the shore. This being done, they sent seven men, well armed, in a boat, with instructions to board a ship, cut her cables, and bring her off; but, if they failed in this, they were to attempt to make prize of wine and water, conveying them in the boat to the ship. Both these schemes were, however, frustrated, since it was easily known, from the distance they lay at, that they were pirates.

When they had cruised off for some days they found themselves in such distress that it became absolutely necessary to seek immediate relief; on which they sailed to Port Santa, a Portuguese settlement, at the distance of about ten leagues.

On their arrival off this place they sent their boat on shore, with a present of salmon and herrings for the governor, and the name of a port to which they pretended to be bound. The persons sent on shore were civilly treated by the governor, who accompanied some of his friends on board the ship. Gow and his associates received the governor very politely, and entertained him and his company in the

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most hospitable manner; but the boat belonging to the pirates not coming on board with some provisions they had expected, and the governor and his attendants preparing to depart, Gow and his people threatened to take away their lives unless they instantly furnished them with what they required.

The surprise of the Portuguese governor and his friends on this occasion is not to be expressed. They dreaded instant death, and, with every sign of extreme fear, solicited that their lives might be spared. Gow being peremptory in his demands, the governor sent a boat repeatedly ashore, till the pirates were furnished with such articles as they wanted.

This business being ended, the Portuguese were permitted to depart, and the pirates determined to steer towards the coast of Spain, where they soon arrived. After cruising a few days off Cape St. Vincent, they fell in with an English vessel bound from the coast of Guinea to America with slaves, but which had been obliged to put into the port of Lisbon. Now although it was of no use for them to make capture of such a vessel, yet they did take it, and, again putting on board the captain and men, but taking out all the provisions and some of the sails, they left the ship to proceed on her voyage.

Falling in with a French ship, laden with wine, oil, and fruit, they took out the lading, and gave the vessel to the Scotch captain, in return for the ship which they had sunk. The Scotchman was likewise presented with some valuable articles, and permitted to take his men to sail with him; all of whom did so, except one, who continued with the pirates through choice.

About the same time they observed another French ship bearing down towards them, on which Gow ordered his people to lay to; but, observing that the vessel mounted two-and-thirty guns, and seemed proportionably full of men, he assembled his people, and observed to them that it would be madness to think of engaging so superior a force.

The crew in general were of Gow's opinion; but Williams, the lieutenant, said Gow was a coward, and unworthy to command the vessel. The fact is, that Gow possessed somewhat of calm courage, while Williams's impetuosity was of the most brutal kind. The latter, after behaving in a very abusive manner, demanded that the former should give orders for fighting the vessel; but Gow refusing to comply, the other presented his pistol to shoot him; but it only flashed in the pan.

This being observed by two of the pirates, named Winter and Paterson, they both fired at Williams, when one of them wounded him in the arm, and the other in the belly. He dropped as soon as the pieces were discharged, and the other seamen, thinking he was dead, were about to throw him overboard, when he suddenly sprang on his feet, jumped into the hold, and swore he would set fire to the powder-room; and, as his pistol was yet loaded, there was every reason to think he would actually have done so, if he had not been instantly seized, and his hands chained behind him, in which condition he was put among the French prisoners, who were terrified at the sight of him; for the savage ferocity and barbarity of this man's nature are not to be described, it being a common practice with him to beat the prisoners in

the severest manner, for his diversion, (as he called it,) and then threaten to murder them.

No engagement happened with the French ship, which held on her way; and two days afterwards the pirates took a ship belonging to Bristol, which was laden with salt fish, and bound from Newfoundland to Oporto. Having taken out the provisions, and many of the stores, they compelled two of the crew to sail with them, and then put the French prisoners on board the newly-captured vessel, which was just on the point of sailing, when they began to reflect in what manner that execrable villain, Williams, should be disposed of.

At length it was determined to put him on board the Bristol ship, the commander of which was desired to turn him over to the first English man of war he should meet with, that he might experience the justice due to his crimes; and in the mean time to keep him in the strictest confinement.

The cruelty of Williams's disposition has been already mentioned, and the following is a most striking instance of it:—Among the arguments used by Gow against engaging the French ship, one was, that they had already more prisoners than they had proper accommodation for, on which Williams proposed that those in their possession might be brought up singly, their throats cut, and their bodies thrown overboard; but Gow said there had been too much blood spilled already—this being too horrid a proposal even for pirates to consent to.

The fact is that Williams would have been hanged at the yard-arm if an opportunity had not offered of putting him on board the Bristol ship. When he learnt their intention respecting him, he earnestly

besought a reconciliation; but this being refused him, and he brought on deck in irons, he begged to be thrown overboard, as he was certain of an ignominious death on his arrival in England; but even this poor favour was denied him, and his companions only wished him 'a good voyage to the gallows.'

When the captain of the Bristol ship reached the port of Lisbon he delivered his prisoner on board an English man of war, which conveyed him to England, where he had afterwards the fate of being hanged with his companions, as we shall see in the sequel.

As soon as the Bristol ship had left them, Gow and his crew began to reflect on their situation. They were apprehensive that, as soon as intelligence of their proceedings reached Portugal, some ships would be sent in pursuit of them. Hereupon they called a kind of council, in which every one gave his opinion, as dictated either by his hopes of profit or by his fears.

Some of them advised going to the coast of Guinea, others to North America, and others again to the West Indies; but Gow proposed to sail to the Isles of Orkney, on the north of Scotland, where, he said, they might dispose of their effects, and retire and live on the produce. To induce his people to comply with this proposal, Gow represented that they were much in want of water, and provisions of every kind; that their danger would be great if they continued longer on the high seas; and, above all, that it was highly necessary for them to repair their ship, which they could not do with any degree of safety in a southern port.

He likewise said that, if any ships should be dispatched in quest of them, they would not think of

searching for them in a northern latitude, so that their voyage that way would be safe; and, if they would follow his directions, much booty might be obtained by plundering the houses of the gentlemen residing near the sea-coast. The danger of alarming the country was objected to these proposals; but Gow said that they should be able to dispatch all their business, and sail again, before such an event could happen.

Apparently convinced by this reasoning, they steered northward, and, entering a bay of one of the Orkney Islands, Gow assembled his crew, and instructed them what tale they should tell to the country people, to prevent suspicion: and it is probable that they might, at least for the present, have escaped detection, if his instructions had been literally obeyed.

These instructions were, to say they were bound from Cadiz to Stockholm; but contrary winds driving them past the Sound, till it was filled with ice, they were under the necessity of putting in to clean their ship; and that they would pay ready money for such articles as they stood in need of.

It happened that a smuggling vessel lay at this time in the bay. It belonged to the Isle of Man; and, being laden with brandy and wine from France, had come north-about, to steer clear of the Custom-house cutters. In their present situation Gow thought it prudent to exchange goods with the commander of the vessel, though in any other he would hardly have been so ceremonious. A Swedish vessel entering the bay two days afterwards, Gow likewise exchanged some goods with the captain.

Now it was that the fate of the pirates seemed to be approaching; for such of the men as had been

forced into the service began to think how they should effect their escape, and secure themselves, by becoming evidence against their dissolute companions.

When the boat went ashore one evening, a young fellow, who had been compelled to take part with the pirates, got away from the rest of the boat's crew, and, after lying concealed some time at a farmhouse, hired a person to show him the road to Kirkwall, the principal place on the islands, about twelve miles distant from the bay where their ship lay at anchor. Here he applied to a magistrate, said he had been forced into their service, and begged that he might be entitled to the protection of the law, as the fear of death alone had induced him to be connected with the pirates.

Having given information of what he knew of their irregular proceedings, the sheriff issued his precepts to the constables and other peace-officers to call in the aid of the people, to assist in bringing such villains to justice.

About this juncture ten other of Gow's sailors, who had taken an involuntary part with the pirates, seized the long boat, and, having made the main land of Scotland, coasted the country till they arrived at Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned on suspicion of being pirates.

Notwithstanding these alarming circumstances, Gow was so careless of his own safety that he did not put immediately to sea, but resolved to plunder the houses of the gentlemen on the coast, to furnish himself with fresh provisions.

In pursuance of this resolution, he sent his boatswain and ten armed men to the house of Mr. Honeyman, high-sheriff of the county; and, the master being absent, the

servants opened the door without suspicion. Nine of the gang went into the house to search for treasure, while the tenth was left to guard the door. The sight of men thus armed occasioned much terror to Mrs. Honeyman and her daughter, who shrieked with dreadful apprehensions for their personal safety; but the pirates, employed in the search of plunder, had no idea of molesting the ladies.

Mrs. Honeyman, running to the door, saw the man who stood guard there, whom she asked what could be the meaning of the outrage: to which he calmly replied that they were pirates, and had come thither only to ransack the house. Recollecting that she had a considerable quantity of gold in a bag, she returned and put it in her lap, and ran by the man at the door, who had no idea but that the wish to preserve her life occasioned her haste.

The boatswain, missing this part of the expected treasure, declared that he would destroy the family writings: but this being overheard by Miss Honeyman, she threw the writings out of the window, and, jumping out after them, escaped unhurt, and carried them off. In the interim the pirates seized the linen, plate, and other valuable articles, and then walked in triumph to their boat, compelling one of the servants to play before them on the bagpipes.

On the following day they set sail, but in the evening came again to anchor near another island. Here the boatswain and some men were sent on shore in search of plunder, but did not obtain any. However, they met with two women, whom they conveyed to the ship, where they detained them three days, and treated them in so shocking a manner, that one of them expired

soon after they had put them on shore.

This atrocious offence was no sooner committed than they sailed to Calf-Sound, with an intention of robbing the house of Mr. Fca, who had been an old school-fellow with Gow. This house was the rather pitched upon, as Gow supposed that Mr. Fca could not have yet heard of the transactions at Mr. Honeyman's; but in this he was mistaken, though Fca could not oppose the pirates on that occasion, on account of the indisposition of his wife.

Mr. Fca's house was situated near the sea-shore: he had only six servants at home when the pirates appeared off the coast; and these were by no means equal to sustain a contest. It may not be improper to remark that the tide runs so high among these islands, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger.

Gow, who had not boats to assist him in an emergency, and was unskilled in the navigation of those seas, made a blunder in turning into the bay of Calf-Sound; for, standing too near the point of a small island called the Calf, the vessel was in the utmost danger of being run on shore. This little island was merely a pasture for sheep belonging to Mr. Fca, who had at that time six hundred feeding on it.

Gow having cast his anchor too near the shore, so that the wind could not bring him off, sent a boat with a letter to Mr. Fca, requesting that he would lend him another boat, to assist him in heaving off the ship, by carrying out an anchor; and assuring him that he would not do the least injury to any individual.

As Gow's messenger did not see

Mr. Fca's house was situated near the sea-shore: he had only six servants at home when the pirates appeared off the coast; and these were by no means equal to sustain a contest. It may not be improper to remark that the tide runs so high among these islands, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger.

Mr. Fea's boat, the latter gave him an evasive answer, and, on the approach of night, ordered his servants to sink his own boat, and hide the sails and rigging.

While they were obeying this order five of Gow's men came on shore in the boat, and proceeded, doubly armed, towards Fea's house. Hereupon the latter advanced towards them with an assurance of friendship, and begged they would not enter the house, for that his wife was exceedingly ill; that the idea of their approach had greatly alarmed her, and the sight of them might probably deprive her of life. The boatswain replied that they had no design to terrify Mrs. Fea, or any other person; but that the most rigorous treatment must be expected if the use of the boat was denied them.

Mr. Fea represented how dangerous it would be for him to assist them, on account of the reports circulated to their discredit: but he offered to entertain them at an adjacent alehouse; and they accepted the invitation, as they observed that he had no company. While they were drinking, Mr. Fea ordered his servants to destroy their boat, and, when they had done so, to call him hastily out of the company, and inform him of it.

These orders were exactly complied with; and, when he had left the pirates, he directed six men, well armed, to station themselves behind a hedge, and, if they observed him to come alone with the boatswain, instantly to seize him; but, if he came with all the five desperadoes, he would walk forward, so as to give them an opportunity of firing without wounding himself.

After giving these orders Fea returned to the company, whom he invited to his house, on the promise of their behaving peaceably, and

said he would make them heartily welcome. They all expressed a readiness to attend him, in the hope of getting the boat: but he told them he would rather have the boatswain's company only, and would afterwards send for his companions.

This being agreed to, the boatswain set forward with two brace of pistols, and, walking with Mr. Fea till they came to the hedge where the men were concealed, that gentleman then seized him by the collar, while the others took him into custody before he had time to make any defence. The boatswain called aloud for his men; but Mr. Fea, forcing a handkerchief into his mouth, bound him hand and foot, and then left one of his own people to guard him, while himself and the rest went back to the public house.

There being two doors to the house, they went some to the one, and some to the other; and, rushing in at once, made prisoners of the other four men before they had time to have recourse to their arms for defence.

The five pirates, being thus in custody, were sent to an adjacent village, and separately confined, and in the interim Mr. Fea sent messengers round the island to acquaint the inhabitants with what had been done; to desire them to haul their boats on the beach, that the pirates should not swim to and steal them; and to request that no person would venture to row within reach of the pirates' guns.

On the following day the wind shifted to the north-west, and blew hard, on which the pirates conceived hopes of getting out to sea; but the person employed to cut the cable missing some of his strokes, the ship's way was checked, she turned round, and, the cable parting, the vessel was driven on Calf Island.

Reduced to this dilemma, without

even a boat to assist in getting off the ship, Gow hung out a white flag, as an intimation that he was willing to treat, on friendly terms; but Mr. Fea, having now little doubt of securing the whole of the gang, wrote to Gow, and told him he had been compelled to make prisoners of his men on account of their insolent behaviour. He likewise told him that the whole country was alarmed, and that the most probable chance of securing his own life would be by surrendering, and becoming an evidence against his accomplices.

Four armed men in an open boat carried this letter to Gow, who sent for answer that he would give goods to the value of a thousand pounds to be assisted in his escape; but, if this should be refused, he would set fire to the ship rather than become a prisoner. He even said that he would trust to the mercy of the waves, if Mr. Fea would indulge him with a boat.

On reading this letter, Fea determined to persuade him to submit, and therefore took four men well armed in a boat, and rowed towards the ship: but he previously placed a man with a flag in his hand at the top of his house, to make such signals as might be proper to prevent his falling a sacrifice to any artifice of the pirates.

The instructions given to the servant were, that he should wave the flag once if he saw one of the pirates swim towards the shore; but, if he beheld four or more of them, he should wave it constantly till his master got out of danger. Mr. Fea, rowing forwards, spoke through a trumpet, asking Gow to come on shore and talk with him, which the latter said he would. Hereupon Fea lay-to, in waiting for him; but at this juncture he saw a man swimming from the ship with a white flag in his hand, on which the man

on the house waved his flag; but soon afterwards he was observed to wave it continually, on which Mr. Fea's boat retired, and those in her presently saw five more of the pirates swimming towards them; but they returned to the ship as soon as they saw the others were aware of the artifice.

The first pirate, who carried the white flag, now retired to the corner of the island, and, calling to Mr. Fea, told him that 'the captain had sent him a bottle of brandy.' Fea replied that he hoped to see Gow hanged, and that he was inclined to shoot the messenger for his insolence; on which the fellow decamped with great precipitation.

Soon after this Gow wrote a most humble letter to Mrs. Fea, imploring her interference in his behalf; and, though she had determined not to interest herself in his favour, yet he resolved to go on shore; and, taking a white flag in his hand, he made signals for a parley; on which Mr. Fea sent some armed men to seize him living or dead.

On their meeting, Gow insisted that one of their men should be left as a hostage; and this circumstance being seen by Mr. Fea, from the windows of his house, he sailed over to the island, where he reprimanded his people for delivering the hostage, and likewise told Gow that he was his prisoner. Gow replied, that could not be, since a hostage had been delivered for him.

To this Mr. Fea replied that he had issued no orders for delivering the hostage, and that the man who had foolishly engaged himself as such must submit to the consequence; but he advised Gow, for his own sake, to make signals that the man might obtain his liberty. This Gow refused to do; but Fea made signals which deceived the pirates, two of whom came on shore

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with the man, and were instantly taken into custody. Gow was now disarmed of his sword, and made prisoner, after begging to be shot with his sword in his possession.

The leader of the gang being thus secured, Mr. Fea had recourse to stratagem to get all the rest into his power. He now compelled Gow to make signals for some of them to come on shore, which they readily did, and were apprehended by men concealed to take them as they arrived.

Fea now insinuated to Gow that he would let him have a boat to escape if he would send for his carpenter to repair it, and to bring with him two or three hands to assist him. Gow complied; the men came off, and were severally seized: but as there were other people still on board, Mr. Fea had recourse to the following contrivance to get them into his possession. He directed his own servants to provide hammers, nails, &c. and make a pretence of repairing the boat; and, while this was doing, told Gow to send for his men, since he must have possession of the ship before he would deliver up the boat.

The pirates, on receiving their late captain's orders to come on shore, were very doubtful how to act; but, after a short debate, and having no officers to command them, they shared what money they possessed, and, coming on shore, were all taken into custody.

Thus, by an equal exertion of courage, conduct, and artifice, did Mr. Fea secure these dangerous men, twenty-eight in number, without a single man being killed or wounded, and with the aid only of a few countrymen; a force apparently very insufficient to the accomplishment of such a business.

When all the prisoners were properly secured, Mr. Fea sent an express to Edinburgh, requesting that

proper persons might be sent to conduct them to that city. In the interim Mr. Fea took an inventory of all the effects in the ship, to be appropriated as the government might direct.

Six articles, of which the following is a copy, were found on board the ship, in Gow's hand-writing. It is conjectured that while they were entangled among the rocks of the Orkney Islands these articles were hastily drawn up, and arose from their distressed situation:

I. That every man shall obey his commander in all respects as if the ship was his own, and as if he received monthly wages.

II. That no man shall give or dispose of the ship's provisions; but every one shall have an equal share.

III. That no man shall open or declare to any person or persons who they are, or what designs they are upon; and any persons so offending shall be punished with immediate death.

IV. That no man shall go on shore till the ship is off the ground, and in readiness to put to sea.

V. That every man shall keep his watch night and day; and at the hour of eight in the evening every one shall retire from gaming and drinking, in order to attend his respective station.

VI. Every person who shall offend against any of these articles shall be punished with death, or in such other manner as the ship's company shall think proper.

The express from Mr. Fea being arrived at Edinburgh, another was forwarded to London, to learn the royal pleasure respecting the disposal of the pirates; and the answer brought was, that the lord justice Clerk should immediately send them to London, in order to their being tried by a Court of Admiralty, to be held for that purpose.

When these orders reached Edinburgh, a guard of soldiers marched to fetch them to that city; and, on their arrival, they were put on board the Greyhound frigate, which immediately sailed for the Thames.

On their arrival in the river, a detachment of the guards from the Tower attended their landing, and conducted them to the Marshalsea Prison, where they once more saw Lieutenant Williams, who had been conveyed to England by the man of war which received him from the Bristol captain at Lisbon, as before mentioned. This Williams, though certain of coming to an ignominious end, took a malignant pleasure in seeing his companions in like circumstances of calamity.

A commission was now made out for their trial; and, soon after commitment, they underwent separate examinations before the judge of the Admiralty Court in Doctors' Commons, when five of them, who appeared to be less guilty than the rest, were admitted evidences against their accomplices.

Being removed from the Marshalsea to Newgate, their trials came on at the Old Bailey, when Gow, Williams, and six others, were convicted, and received sentence of death; but the rest were acquitted, as it seemed evident that they had been compelled to take part with the pirates.

The behaviour of Gow, from his first commitment, was reserved and morose. He considered himself as an assured victim to the justice of the laws, nor entertained any hope of being admitted an evidence, as Mr. Fea had hinted to him that he might be.

When brought to trial he refused to plead, in consequence of which he was sentenced to be pressed to death in the usual manner. His

reason for this refusal was, that he had an estate which he wished might descend to a relation, and which would have been the case had he died under the pressure.

But, when the proper officers were about to inflict this punishment, he begged to be taken again to the bar to plead, of which the judge being informed, he humanely granted his request; and the consequence was that he was convicted, as above mentioned, on the same evidence as his accomplices.

While under sentence of death he was visited by some Presbyterian ministers, who laboured to convince him of the atrocity of his crime; but he seemed deaf to all their admonitions and exhortations.

Williams's depravity of mind exceeds all description. He seemed equally insensible to the hope of happiness, or the fear of torment, in a future state. He boasted to those who visited him of his constantly advising Gow 'to tie the prisoners back to back, and throw them into the sea,' to prevent their giving evidence against them.

Gow, Williams, and six of their accomplices, were hanged together, at Execution Dock, on the 11th of August, 1729.

A remarkable circumstance happened to Gow at the place of execution. His friends, anxious to put him out of his pain, pulled his legs so forcibly that the rope broke, and he dropped down; on which he was again taken up to the gibbet, and, when he was dead, was hung in chains on the banks of the Thames.

It may be observed, to the credit of recent times, that the crime of piracy is becoming more and more uncommon—our seamen, in general, being as honest as they are brave.

JAMES CARNEGIE, ESQ.

TRIED FOR MURDER.

MR. CARNEGIE was a gentleman of fortune, whose estate being contiguous to that of Charles, Earl of Strathmore, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between the parties, which was increased by the similarity of their political sentiments, both of them being favourers of the claims of the Pretender.

Lady Auchterhouse, who was sister to Mr. Carnegie, having invited some of the neighbouring gentry to visit her, there went among the rest John Lyon, Esq. a young gentleman who paid his addresses to another sister of Mr. Carnegie. Mr. Lyon's view in this visit was to ask Carnegie's consent to the match; but this the latter absolutely refused, and treated Lyon with so much asperity, that a quarrel ensued, and swords were drawn by both parties. The Earl of Strathmore, anxious to prevent bloodshed, exerted all his influence to reconcile the contending parties; and at length so far succeeded, that all animosity seemed to have subsided, and the company sat down and drank together, as if no quarrel had arisen.

The conversation now took a political turn; and, as the company were of different sentiments, high words of altercation arose; and the King and the Pretender were abused in a manner equally illiberal.

At length the passions of the parties were so inflamed that they had recourse to blows; and some of them quitting the house, among whom were Lyon and Carnegie, the former pushed the latter on the ground, which enraged him so much that he arose and drew his sword; but Lyon had consulted his safety

by flight. Carnegie followed him a little way, but, falling in the pursuit, was lifted up by some of the company; when, turning about with the fury of a madman, he ran his sword into the body of Lord Strathmore.

This melancholy event had no sooner taken place than the company returned to Lady Auchterhouse's, except the Earl of Strathmore, who was carried home by his servants, and died, after languishing two days.

A neighbouring magistrate, being informed of what had happened, went to the house and demanded the gentlemen's swords, which were delivered: but Mr. Carnegie having been concealed under some flax in an outhouse, it was required that Lady Auchterhouse should tell where he was, which she did; and the magistrate, having received his sword, sent him to the prison of Forfar.

Some weeks afterwards he was removed, to be tried before the Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, which is somewhat similar to our Court of King's Bench in England.*

It was fully proved upon the trial, that Lyon had behaved in the most insulting manner to Carnegie, who did not draw his sword till he had been pushed down, as above mentioned. It was likewise proved that Lord Strathmore had lived on terms of the utmost friendship with Mr. Carnegie; and that, on other occasions, when the latter had been insulted by Lyon, the earl had protected him.

A witness swore that Mr. Carnegie had proposed Lady Strathmore's health when in company, and that he sat next the earl. It

* There are no grand juries in Scotland; the king's advocate draws the indictment. The judges determine if the crime be capital; and the fact is tried by a petty jury.

was sworn also that Carnegie, since his confinement, had regretted the melancholy issue of the quarrel, as it had deprived him of one of his most valuable friends, and a person whom he could have had no thought of injuring.

Another evidence deposed that the behaviour of Mr. Lyon to Mr. Carnegie was insupportably aggravating; that he pushed him on the breast, and otherwise ill treated him; and that he had seized Lady Auchterhouse by the hand, and struck it so violently on the table,

that she cried out through the extremity of pain.

On the other hand, one of Lord Strathmore's servants swore that Mr. Carnegie stabbed his master *twice* in the belly; but the surgeon who examined the wound gave a more favorable account of the matter than the servant.

The trial lasted a considerable time, when the jury, considering on the whole matter, gave a verdict that the prisoner was Not Guilty. These transactions took place in the month of July, 1728.

JEPHTHAH BIG,

EXECUTED FOR SENDING A LETTER TO EXTORT MONEY.

THIS malefactor was a native of Spitalfields, and, having a brother who was coachman to a gentleman of fortune, he conceived an idea of supplying his own extravagances by extorting money from his brother's master.

Calling on one Peter Salter, he took him to an obscure public house near the Minorics, where he developed his scheme, saying he might obtain a hundred guineas by sending a threatening letter, but was at a loss to think what house the money should be sent to: at length he fixed on a public house, called the Shoulder of Mutton, at Billings-gate, whither he directed Salter to go and wait till a porter should bring a letter directed to John Harrison, which letter Salter was to carry to Big, at an alehouse on Fish Street Hill.

Agreeably to the direction, Salter waited at the Shoulder of Mutton till a porter brought a letter, and spoke to the landlord and his son, who seemed surprised at reading the contents. Guilt is ever cowardly; and, one of them going out, Salter imagined it was to call an officer to apprehend him; on which he slipped out of the house,

and went to his companion on Fish Street Hill.

These associates in roguery taking a walk to Moorfields, Big said he was undaunted by this repulse, and that he would write such a letter as would make the gentleman tremble; and he did not doubt of success. In consequence of an agreement between the parties, another letter was sent, ordering the gentleman to send a hundred guineas, enclosed in a parcel, to the Black Boy in Goodman's Fields, directed to John Harrison.

Salter went daily, and drank at this house, where he had hitherto been a stranger, in expectation of an answer, which he was to receive, guarding only against any artifice that might be used to apprehend him. While he was thus waiting, he read an advertisement in the newspaper, offering a reward for the villainous writer of the note.

At this juncture a porter brought a letter, which he gave to the landlord, who having read it, the porter said, "I have a parcel for one Mr. Harrison; do you know such a gentleman?" The landlord inquired if any person present answered to that name; but Salter

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was too much on his guard to do so; and, drinking his beer without any sign of fear, he went to an ale-house near Aldgate, where he met his accomplice, and told him a scheme was laid to apprehend him.

After some conference they adjourned to a public house near the residence of the gentleman to whom the threatening letters had been sent. Here Big sent for his brother, who attended; but said, as he was obliged to go out with his master, he could not stay with them. Big now observed that his brother had complained of the peevish disposition of his master, and asked if he did not intend to leave him. The brother replied that his master had been very fretful for some days past; but added, "I have now found out the reason; for some vile rogue has sent a threatening letter, and swears he will murder him if a sum of money is not sent to a public house in Goodman's Fields."

When Big's brother was gone, he told Salter he would send another letter, whatever might be the consequence; but Salter persuaded him not to run the risk of a proceeding which must be followed by certain ruin.

A few days after this, the porter who had carried the letter, and seen

Salter at both the public houses, happened to meet him, and, suspecting that he might be the offender, delivered him into the custody of a peace-officer, on which he accused Big as the principal, who was thereupon apprehended and committed to Newgate, and Salter admitted evidence for the crown.

Big, being tried at the Old Bailey, was sentenced to die; but, after conviction, he seemed to be of opinion that he had not been guilty of a capital offence in sending a letter to extort money. He was thought to be a Roman Catholic, since he refused the attendance of the Ordinary while he lay in Newgate.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 19th of September, 1729, but was so ill at the place of execution, that he could not attend the devotions proper for men in his calamitous situation.

There are few crimes more atrocious than that for which Big suffered. One would imagine that there could not be a wretch existing base enough to enjoy that terror of mind which an honest man must feel, on receiving a threatening letter, which leaves him no alternative but that of being either stripped of his property, or in hourly danger of the deprivation of life.

FRANCIS CHARTERIS,

CONVICTED OF USING VIOLENCE TO THE PERSON OF ANN BOND.

THE name of Charteris, during life, was a terror to female innocence; may, therefore, his fate, and the exposure of his villainy, act as their shield against the destructive machinations of profligate men, especially such as those upon whom the blind and fickle goddess, Fortune, may have unworthily heaped riches. The wealthy profligate, in order to gratify an inordinate passion, will

promise, perjure, and pay, to any length, or to any amount—then, 'like a loathsome weed, cast you away.'

Be thus adv'd, ye young and fair,
Let virtuous men engage your care.
The rake and libertine despise;
Their breath is poison—O be wise!
Their arts and wiles turn quick away,
And from fair Virtue's path ne'er stray.

By the law of Egypt rapes were punished by removal of the offend-

ing parts. The Athenian laws compelled the ravisher of a virgin to marry her. It was long before this offence was punished capitally by the Roman law; but at length the *Lex Julia* inflicted the pains of death on the ravisher. The Jewish law also punished this crime with death; but, if a virgin was deflowered without force, the offender was obliged to pay a fine and marry the woman.

By the 18th of Elizabeth, cap. 7, this offence was made felony without benefit of clergy.

It is certainly of a very heinous nature, and, if tolerated, would be subversive of all order and morality; yet it may still be questioned how far it is either useful or politic to punish it with death; and it is worth considering whether, well knowing that it originates in the irregular and inordinate gratification of unruly appetite, the injury to society may not be repaired without destroying the offender.

In most cases this injury might be repaired by compelling, where it could be done with propriety, the criminal to marry the injured party; and it would be well for society if the same rule extended not only to all forcible violations of chastity, but even to instances of premeditated and systematic seduction.

In cases, however, where marriage could not take place, on account of legal disability or refusal on the part of the woman, the criminal ought to be severely punished by pecuniary damages to the party injured, and by hard labour and confinement, or transportation for life.

The execrable subject of this narrative was born at Amafield, in Scotland, where he was heir to an estate which his ancestors had possessed above four hundred years;

he was also related to some of the first families in the North by intermarriages with the nobility.

Young Charteris, having received a liberal education, made choice of the profession of arms, and served first under the Duke of Marlborough, as an ensign of foot, but was soon advanced to the rank of cornet of dragoons: he appears, however, to have had other views than fighting when he embraced the life of a soldier.

Being a most expert gamester, and of a disposition uncommonly avaricious, he made his knowledge of gambling subservient to his love of money; and, while the army was in winter-quarters, he stripped many of the officers of all their property by his skill at cards and dice. But he was as knavish as he was dexterous; and, when he had defrauded a brother-officer of all his money, he would lend him a sum at the moderate interest of a hundred per cent, taking an assignment of his commission as security for the payment of the debt.

John, Duke of Argyle, and the Earl of Stair, were at this time young men in the army; and, being determined that the inconsiderate officers should not be thus ruined by the artifices of Charteris, they applied to the Earl of Orkney, who was also in the army then quartered at Brussels, representing the destruction that must ensue to young gentlemen in the military line, if Charteris was not stopped in his proceedings.

The Earl of Orkney, anxious for the credit of the army in general, and his countrymen in particular, represented the state of the case to the Duke of Marlborough, who gave orders that Charteris should be put under arrest, and tried by court-martial. The court was composed of an equal number of Eng-

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lish and Scotch officers, that Charteris might have no reason to say he was treated with partiality.

After a candid hearing of the case, the proofs of Charteris's villainy were so strong, that he was sentenced to return the money he had obtained by usurious interest, to be deprived of his commission, and to be drummed out of the regiment, his sword being first broken; which sentence was executed in its fullest extent.

Thus disgraced, Charteris quitted Brussels, and, in the road between that place and Mecklin, he threw his breeches into a ditch, and then, buttoning his scarlet cloak below his knees, he went into an inn to take up his lodgings for the night.

It is usual, in places where armies are quartered, for military officers to be treated with all possible respect; and this was the case with Charteris, who had every distinction shown him that the house could afford, and, after an elegant supper, was left to repose.

Early in the morning he rang the bell violently, and, the landlord coming terrified into his room, he swore furiously that he had been robbed of his breeches, containing a diamond ring, a gold watch, and money to a considerable amount; and, having previously broken the window, he intimated that some person must have entered that way, and carried off his property; and he even insinuated that the landlord himself might have been the robber.

It was in vain that the innkeeper solicited mercy in the most humiliating posture. Charteris threatened that he should be sent to Brussels, and suffer death, as an accessory to the felony.

Terrified at the thought of approaching disgrace and danger, the

landlord of the house sent for some friars of an adjacent convent, to whom he represented his calamitous situation, and they generously supplied him with a sum sufficient to reimburse Charteris for the loss he pretended to have sustained.

Our unprincipled adventurer now proceeded through Holland, whence he embarked for Scotland, and had not been long in that kingdom before his servile submission, and his money, procured him another commission in a regiment of horse; and he was afterwards advanced to the rank of colonel.

Amidst all his other avocations, the love of money was his ruling passion; for the acquirement whereof there was no crime of which he would not have been guilty.

The Duke of Queensbury was at this time commissioner to the Parliament of Scotland, which was assembled at Edinburgh, to deliberate on the proposed union with England. Charteris having been invited to a party at cards with the Duchess of Queensbury, he contrived that her Grace should be placed in such a manner, near a large glass, that he could see all her cards; and he won three thousand pounds of her in consequence of this stratagem. One good, however, resulted from this circumstance: the Duke of Queensbury, incensed at the imposition, brought a bill into the House to prohibit gaming for above a certain sum; and this bill passed into a law.

Our adventurer continued his depredations on the thoughtless till he had acquired considerable sums. When he had stripped young men of their ready cash at the gaming-tables, it was his practice, as before, to lend them money at an extravagant interest, for which he took their bonds to confess judg-

ment, and the moment the bonds became due he failed not to take every legal advantage.

By a continued rapacity of this kind he acquired several considerable estates in Scotland, and then removed to London, which, as it was the seat of greater dissipation, was a place better adapted to the exertion of his abilities.

He now became a great lender of money on mortgages, always receiving a large premium, by which at length he became so rich as to purchase several estates in England, particularly in the county of Lancaster.

Colonel Charteris was as infamous on account of his amours as for the unfeeling avarice of his disposition: his house was no better than a brothel, and no woman of modesty would live within his walls. He kept in pay some women of abandoned character, who, going to inns where the country waggons put up, used to prevail on harmless young girls to go to the colonel's house as servants; the consequence of which was, that their ruin soon followed, and they were turned out of doors, exposed to all the miseries consequent on poverty and a loss of reputation.

His agents did not confine their operations to inns, but, wherever they found a handsome girl, they endeavoured to decoy her to the colonel's house; and, among the rest, Ann Bond fell a prey to his artifices. This young woman had lived in London, but, having quitted her service on account of illness, took lodgings at a private house, where she recovered her health, and was sitting at the door, when a woman addressed her, saying, she could help her to a place in the family of Colonel Harvey; for the character of Charteris was now become so notorious, that his agents

did not venture to make use of his name.

Bond being hired, the woman conducted her to the colonel's house, where she was three days before she was acquainted with his real name. Her master gave her money to redeem some clothes, which she had pledged to support her in her illness; and would have bought other clothes for her, but she refused to accept them.

He now offered her a purse of gold, an annuity for life, and a house, if she would lie with him; but the virtuous girl resisted the temptation; declared she would not be guilty of so base an act; that she would discharge her duty as a servant, and that her master might dismiss her if her conduct did not please him.

On the day following this circumstance she heard a gentleman asking for her master by the name of Charteris, which alarmed her fears still more, as she was not apprized of his general character; wherefore she told the housekeeper that she must quit her service, as she was very ill.

The housekeeper informing the colonel of this circumstance, he sent for the poor girl, and threatened that he would shoot her if she left his service. He likewise ordered the servants to keep the door fast, to prevent her making her escape; and, when he spoke of her, it was in the most contemptuous terms.

On the following day he directed his clerk of the kitchen to send her into the parlour; and, on her attending him, he bade her stir the fire: while she was thus employed, he suddenly seized and committed violence on her, first stopping her mouth with his night-cap; and afterwards, on her saying that she would prosecute him, he beat her

with a horsewhip, and called her by the most opprobrious names.

On his opening the door the clerk of the kitchen appeared, to whom the colonel pretended that she had robbed him of thirty guineas, and directed him to turn her out of the house, which was accordingly done.

Herenpon she went to a gentlewoman named Parsons, and, informing her of what had happened, asked her advice how to proceed. Mrs. Parsons recommended her to exhibit articles against him for the assault; but, when the matter came afterwards to be heard by the grand jury, they held that it was not an attempt, but an actual commission, of the fact; and a bill was found accordingly.

When the colonel was committed to Newgate he was loaded with heavy fetters; but he soon purchased a lighter pair, and paid for the use of a room in the prison, and for a man to attend him.

Colonel Charteris had been married to the daughter of Sir Alexander Swinton, of Scotland, who bore him one daughter, afterwards married to the Earl of Wemys; and the earl, happening to be in London at the time of the above-mentioned transaction, procured a writ of habeas corpus, in consequence of which the colonel was admitted to bail.

When the trial came on every art was used to traduce the character of the prosecutrix, with a view to destroy the force of her evidence; but, happily, her character was so fair, and there was so little reason to think that she had any sinister view in the prosecution, that every artifice failed; and, after a long trial, in which the facts were proved to the satisfaction of the jury, a

verdict of guilty was given against the colonel, who received sentence to be executed in the accustomed manner.*

On this occasion Charteris was not a little obliged to his son-in-law, Lord Wemys, who caused the Lord President Forbes to come from Scotland, to plead the cause before the privy council; and an estate of 300*l.* per annum for life was assigned to the president for this service.

At length the king consented to grant the colonel a pardon, on his settling a handsome annuity on the prosecutrix.

Colonel Charteris was tried at the Old Bailey on the 25th of February, 1730.

After his narrow escape from a fate which he had so well deserved he retired to Edinburgh, where he lived about two years, and then died in a miserable manner, a victim to his own irregular course of life.

He was buried in the family vault, in the churchyard of the Grey Friars of Edinburgh; but his vices had rendered him so detestable, that it was with some difficulty he was committed to the grave; for the mob almost tore the coffin in pieces, and committed a variety of irregularities, in honest contempt of such an abandoned character.

Soon after Charteris was convicted a fine mezzotinto print of him was published, representing him standing at the bar of the Old Bailey, with his thumbs tied; and under the print was the following inscription:

Blood!—must a colonel, with a lord's estate,
Be thus obnoxious to a scoundrel's fate?
Brought to the bar, and sentenc'd from the bench,
Only for ravishing a country wench?

* At Exeter, on the 5th of October, 1753, an unworthy minister of the Holy Gospel, the Reverend Peter Vine, was hanged for committing a crime of this nature.

Shall men of honour meet no more respect?
Shall their diversions thus by laws be
check'd?

Shall they be accountable to money juries
For this or for other pleasure?—hell and
furies!

What man through villainy would run a
course,

And ruin families without remorse,
To heap up riches—if, when all is done,
An ignominious death be cannot shun?

But the most severe, yet just,
character of Charteris was written
by the celebrated Dr. Arbuthnot,
and is comprised in the following
epitaph:

Here lieth the body of Colonel
DON FRANCISCO,

Who, with an inflexible constancy,
And inimitable uniformity of life,
Persisted, in spite of age and infirmity,
In the practice of every human vice,
Excepting prodigality and hypocrisy;

His insatiable avarice
Exempting him from the first,
And his matchless impudence
From the latter.

Nor was he more singular
In that undeviating viciousness of life
Than successful in accumulating wealth,
Having,

Without trust of public money, bribe,
Worth, service, trade, or profession,
Acquired, or rather created,
A ministerial estate.

Among the singularities of his life and
fortune

Be it likewise commemorated,
That he was the only person in his time
Who would cheat without the mask of
honesty;
Who would retain his primeval meanness

After being possessed of 10,000 pounds a
year;

And who having done, every day of his life,
Something worthy of a gibbet,
Was once condemned to see
For what he had not done.
Think not, indignant reader,
His life useless or unavailing.

PROVIDENCE

Favoured, or rather connived at.

His execrable designs,
That he might remain,
To this and future ages,

A conspicuous proof and example

Of how small estimation
Exorbitant wealth is held in the sight
Of the ALMIGHTY,
By his bestowing it on
The most unworthy
Of all the descendants
Of Adam.

It is impossible to contemplate
the character of this wretch without
the highest degree of indignation.

A gambler, an usurer, an op-
pressor, a ravisher! who sought to
make equally the follies of men and
the persons of women subservient
to his passions; to the basest of
passions—avarice and lust!

It would be an affront to our
readers even to caution them against
following so execrable an example;
for surely the world will never pro-
duce two such individuals as Colonel
Charteris: but honest detestation
may be allowed to take place; and
it is some proof of virtue to despise
the wicked.

SIR SIMON CLARKE, BART. AND LIEUTENANT ROBERT ARNOTT,

CONVICTED OF HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

TITLES, honours, and high-sound-
ing names, have been debased to
such a pitch, that their bearers have
even become, as in this instance,
subjects for criminal chronology.

The law, regarding the nature of
our common title in society, places
men upon a level; and under this

right we show neither favour nor
affection in handing to posterity
the methods taken by individuals
to violate that excellent code. The
meanest member of our country is
free as the titled one, and, like him,
cannot be adjudged guilty but by
his peers,—that is, his equals,—

* Francis Charteris.

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commoners by a jury of twelve men, and lords by the House of Lords.

Sir Simon Clarke and Lieutenant Robert Arnott were tried, and convicted of a highway robbery, at an assize held at Winchester. We have shown the reader that unrestrained gusts of passion have brought some noblemen to the gallows; and others have been led to the block for treason; but still more have escaped their merited fate through influence. No man, however, of title, do we remember to be brought to ignominy for a robbery, in the common course practised by highwaymen, save Sir Simon Clarke; and no mercy should be extended towards those favoured by fortune after the commission of so despicable a crime.

The influence exerted in behalf of this culprit, and his coadjutor in iniquity, almost smothered the promulgation of the trial. We, how-

ever, in the course of our researches, found it named in one of the best publications of that day, *The Gentleman's Magazine*, which, for the month of March, 1731, contains the following information:

' Came on at Winchester, the trials of Sir Simon Clarke, Bart. and Lieutenant Robert Arnott, who were convicted of a robbery on the highway. A numerous concourse of gentry were present. Sir Simon made a most pathetic and moving speech, which had such an effect, that there was scarce a dry eye in the Court. The high sheriff and grand jury, considering the antiquity, worth, and dignity, of Sir Simon's ancestors, the services they had done their king and country, together with the youth and melancholy circumstances of that unhappy gentleman, agreed to address his majesty in their behalf; upon which a reprieve *sine die*, which implies for ever, was granted them.'

ROBERT IRWIN, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

In the fate of this man we have another instance of the tormenting impulse which impels murderers, who have escaped the punishment awaiting such as shed innocent blood, to return, as it were involuntarily, to make atonement for the horrid crime.

This hoary sinner was, at the time of his committing the murder in question, a soldier in the second regiment of foot-guards; and, on the evening of the perpetration of the fatal deed, he had been drinking Geneva with a comrade of the name of John Briggins: after which they went together to a gaming-house called the Phoenix, in the

Haymarket, and where Irwin had some time held the office of door-keeper.* Ringing the bell, one Piercy, who had succeeded Irwin as door-keeper, opened the wicket; but, seeing who it was, said he had orders not to let him in, as he had already been turned out for breeding quarrels and disturbances. Enraged at this language from the man who had supplanted him, he drew his bayonet, pushed it through the wicket into the very heart of Piercy, and then made his escape. Hearing the next morning that the door-keeper of the Phoenix had been murdered, he determined to desert his regiment, which he imme-

* Soldiers in the guards, for long and faithful services, are often indulged with leave of absence from duty, in order to allow them to earn a little addition to their pay, which alone but ill supplies the comforts desirable to old age.

diately did, and fled to Ireland, where he remained long undiscovered among his relations, and might, for the remainder of his wretched life, have continued thus concealed, had his mind been undisturbed; but his situation grew irksome, and nobody could dissuade him from returning to London. As a reason for so doing, he pretended that, from his long services in the army, he would, on application, be made an out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital, and fancied the mur-

der would be forgotten. He had not, however, been many days in London, before he was met by one John Roberts, who caused him to be apprehended. He was tried at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Piercy, five years after the commission of the crime, when his old comrade Briggins appeared, and swore that he saw Irwin give the fatal blow. He was found guilty, and executed in the year 1731, at Tyburn, where he confessed the fact.

WILLIAM SMITH,

EXECUTED FOR HORSE-STEALING.

IN the former part of the last century horse-stealing was a very common offence. Thieves could then dispose of their stolen booty with much more facility than at present, the laws being now better maintained and carried into execution than formerly.

The subject of the present article was not only a stealer of horses, but of cattle of every description. Smith was born at Cambridge, bred a clothier, had been a soldier, then descended to the post of footman to a private family, and from that lazy, saucy, kind of life, became connected with horse-stealers. Owing to his person not being known in the scenes of their depredations, he for some time acted as the receiver of the gang. He returned some of the stolen property for the reward offered, cut out, or altered, the marks of others, and drove the remainder to a distance for sale. From a rich farmer in Essex he stole four fine large colts, and gave them to a colonel in the French service, hoping to be rewarded by a commission in his regiment; but Monsieur, though he liked the young horses, despised the thief, and Smith found that he

had been outwitted. He afterwards defrauded a farmer of six horses, pretending to purchase them.

Becoming now known in Essex, he changed his depredations to Surrey, and soon cheated a farmer's widow of two cows. Having next stolen a horse and a mare, he was about to drive the whole off for sale, when, on the 27th of May, 1731, he was apprehended. The cows were found yoked together, and tied to the horses' tails; and he was in the very act of cutting off the ears of the former, in order to deface them, having already altered the marks of the horses.

He was tried for the offences committed in Essex at Chelmsford, and found guilty of felony in horse-stealing. In the interim between his condemnation and execution he gave out that he could inform persons how to recover the property of which he had robbed them, and cheated many out of sums of money by false tales, and other deceitful acts; and the produce of this shocking depravity he wasted in drinking and gaming, which shameful practices he continued to the day of his execution. He suffered at Chelmsford, along with Thomas Willer,

another horse-stealer, on the 13th of August, 1731.

At the next assize for the same county a third horse-stealer was convicted and executed. This man's name was *John Doe*, against whom *thirty-nine* bills of indictment were

found by the grand jury! He belonged to a numerous gang of depredators, who stole cattle of every description, and drove them to Smithfield market, in London, where he had the effrontery to sell them.

ROBERT HALLAM,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER,

Was a native of London, and intended by his parents for a maritime life, in preparation for which they had him instructed in navigation, and then apprenticed him to the captain of a trading vessel. He served his time with fidelity, acquired the character of an able seaman, and afterwards went on board several vessels as a mate, and was held in great reputation.

On his return to London he married a young woman, who being averse to his going again to sea, he purchased two of the Gravesend wherries, and continued to get his living on the Thames nine years.

His family being increased by several children, he took a public house, which was chiefly attended to by his wife, while he still pursued his business as a proprietor of the Gravesend boats.

The taking an alehouse was an unfortunate circumstance for Hallam; for the house being frequented by the lowest of the people, and his wife being addicted to drinking, the place was a perpetual scene of riot and confusion.

Hallam, returning from his business one evening, found his wife intoxicated: being irritated by this circumstance, he expressed his sentiments with great freedom; and she replying with some warmth, he beat her so as to leave evident marks of resentment on her face.

Hallam's son now told his father that a waterman who lodged in the

house frequently slept with his mother; and some persons present likewise hinting that this was probable, from certain familiarities they had observed between the woman and the waterman, Hallam charged his wife with being unfaithful to his bed, and she confessed that she had been so; on which he beat her in a more severe manner than before.

Not long after this he came home late at night, and knocked at the door; but, no one coming to let him in, he procured a ladder to get in at the window; when his wife appeared, and admitted him. On his asking the reason why she did not sooner open the door, she said she had been asleep, and did not hear him; but she afterwards confessed that she had a man with her, and had let him out at a back window before she opened the door to her husband.

The infidelity of Hallam's wife tempted him to equal indulgence of his irregular passions: he had illicit connexions with several women, and, in particular, seduced the wife of a waterman, which broke the husband's heart, and he died in consequence of the affair.

On a particular night Hallam came home very much in liquor, and went to bed, desiring his wife to undress herself, and come to bed likewise. She sat, partly undressed, on the side of the bed, as if afraid to go in; while he became quite

enraged at her paying no regard to what he said. At length she ran down stairs, and he followed her, and locked the street-door to prevent her going out. On this she ran up into the dining-room, whither he likewise followed her, and struck her several times. He then went into another room for his cane, and she locked him in.

Enraged at this, he broke open the door, and, seizing her in his arms, threw her out of the window, with her head foremost, and her back to the ground, so that, on her falling, her back was broken, her skull fractured, and she instantly expired. A person passing just

before she fell heard her cry out 'Murder! for God's sake! for Christ's sake! for our family's sake! for our children's sake, don't murder me, don't throw me out of the window!'

We give the above circumstances as what were sworn to on the trial, in consequence of which the jury found Hallam guilty, and he received sentence of death: but the prisoner denied the fact, insisting that she threw herself out of the window before he got into the room; and he persisted in avowing his innocence to the last hour of his life. He was executed at Tyburn, February 14, 1732.

JOHN HEWIT AND ROSAMOND ODERENSHAW,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THOUGH adultery is, by holy writ, denounced a crime heinous to God, and though we have daily instances of the shocking enormities to which it leads the unguarded, yet are virtue and modesty constantly outraged by the commission of this offence with impunity. No wonder, then, at the mischief arising from this vice, when even princes, who are bound by every tie to hand down to the meanest members of society examples worthy of emulation alone, seem regardless of that commandment of God which says, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.'

John Hewit was a butcher, and a married man, at Derby: and Rosamond Oderenshaw servant to the landlady of the Crown public house, at Nun's Green, a widow, to whose inordinate desires she fell a victim, having been made the instrument of murdering the wife of Hewit. From the confessions of these malefactors it appeared that Hewit had criminal knowledge of both the landlady and her servant. *The former of these abandoned*

women, in order to secure her paramour to herself by marrying him, determined on the murder of Mrs. Hewit. To this horrid end she procured some poison, and mixed it in a pancake, which, through promises of reward, she prevailed upon the servant to give to Hannah Hewit, who, little suspicious, ate heartily thereof, until she was seized with a pain in her stomach, and, vomiting a part of the contents in the yard, a pig that ate of it soon died, and the unfortunate woman herself expired, in excruciating torments, at the end of three hours. While the devoted victim ate the poisoned food the hardened landlady appeared to be composedly ironing some clothes in the parlour, yet this instigator of the foul deed escaped; while the husband, who was proved to have been accessory to the crime, and the servant, alone met their just punishment. The condemned female reprobate, a short time previous to her execution, confessed that, through the persuasion of her mistress, she had some weeks be-

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fore put poison into the broth of Mrs. Hewit, but not in sufficient quantity to produce the intended effect; and that she had borne a bastard child, which she murdered, and buried the body in a certain spot which she described; on digging the ground, the bones of a

child, apparently seven months old, were accordingly found.

This miserable man and woman provided themselves with a shroud each, in which they walked to the gallows, where they died penitent, and confessing their guilt, on the 20th of March, 1732.



Waller pelted to Death by the Mob.

JOHN WALLER, *ALIAS* TREVOR, PILLORIED FOR PERJURY.

THE pillory is an engine made of wood, to punish offenders, by exposing them to public view, and rendering them infamous. There is a statute of the pillory 51 Henry III.; and by statute it is appointed for bakers, forestallers, and those who use false weights, perjury, forgery, &c. Lords of Leets are to have a pillory and tumbrel, or it will be the cause of forfeiture of the leet; and a village may be bound by prescription to provide a pillory, &c.

The name is derived from two

Greek words, signifying 'to look through a door;' because one standing on the pillory puts his head, as it were, through a door.

This profligate wretch, Waller, to robbery added the still greater sin of accusing the innocent, in order to receive the reward in certain cases attending conviction. The abominable dealer in human blood was tried at the Old Bailey for robbing, on the highway, one John Edglin, and afterwards, under the name of John Trevor, giving a

false evidence against the said John Edglin, whereby his life might have become forfeited to the abused laws of the country. On the latter charge he was found guilty.

It appeared, on this memorable trial, that Waller made it a practice to go the circuits as regularly as the judges and counsel, and to swear robberies against such as he deemed fit objects for his purpose, from no other motive than to obtain the reward given by each county for the apprehension and conviction of criminals for highway robberies and other offences therein committed.

The sentence of the Court was, that he should pay a fine of twenty marks, and be imprisoned for the term of two

years, and at the expiration thereof to find good and sufficient security for his good behaviour during the remainder of his life; that he do stand twice in and upon the pillory, bareheaded, with his crime written in large characters; and that he do also stand twice before the pillory, likewise bareheaded, one hour each time.

On Tuesday, the 13th of June, 1732, this wicked man was put in the pillory, pursuant to his sentence, at the Seven Dials, in London; where, so great was the indignation of the populace, that they pelted him to death; and the day after the coroner's inquest gave a verdict, 'Wilful murder by persons unknown.'

ELY HATTON, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

ELY HATTON was indicted at the assizes held at Gloucester in August, 1732, for the wilful murder of Thomas Turberville, a carpenter. It was given in evidence that, on the 29th of April preceding, the deceased was found in his workshop, with his brains dashed out, and his skull chopped in pieces with a broad axe, which lay near his body, covered with blood. Suspicion falling upon Hatton, he was apprehended, having made no effort to evade justice. The proof against him was little more than circumstantial. It appeared in evidence that when the prisoner was apprehended he wore a shirt and pair of stockings, the property of the deceased. His coat was stained with blood, and many other circumstances were adduced, which left no doubts in the minds of the jury. The accused acknowledged that he had been in company with the deceased on the evening of his death; *that he went with him to a certain*

eminence near the town to view some deer, and there they parted; that the shirt he had on, when apprehended, was his brother's; but this was a falsehood, and alone sufficient to fix guilt upon him. He was incautious enough to call a witness in his behalf, who served only to tend to his conviction; for this witness declared that he verily believed him guilty of the murder. The prisoner's defence also varied from his account on his examination before a justice of peace, when he declared that the shirt in question belonged to his father.

As no farther light was thrown upon the circumstances attending the murder of Turberville, it may be fairly presumed, notwithstanding the proof was not positive, that Hatton justly underwent the sentence of the law.

The editor, however, recollects a story, although he cannot state the names of the parties, where an innocent man suffered in France,

This is the story of a man who was executed for a crime he did not commit. The story is very interesting and shows the injustice of the law.

on a charge of murder, and which should, at all events, caution juries, when sitting on the life or death of a fellow-creature, to be extremely guarded in giving their verdict of guilty upon circumstantial evidence alone. A gentleman was found murdered in his own house, and by his own sword. Some persons, coming to the house just after the barbarous deed had been committed, were shocked at seeing his servant-man, in great consternation, running out, with a bloody sword in his hand. So great was his agitation, that he gave an incoherent account of the transaction, and was secured. A surgeon was

sent for, who found the master dead, and, comparing the wound with the sword, declared that the weapon, or one exactly similar, caused his death. This, with the proof that there had been quarrels between the deceased and the prisoner, was the evidence given on the trial; and he was found guilty, and executed. Some years afterwards a late neighbour of the murdered man lay on his death-bed, and, when his confessor came to administer what Catholics call the *extreme unction*,* he confessed that, having had a dispute with him, he entered his house privately, and, in revenge, killed him, as already has been described.

ELEANOR BEARE.

CONVICTED OF PROCURING ABORTION IN WOMEN.

In our dreadful catalogue of crimes, committed by man upon his fellow-creatures, none is attended with more pernicious consequences to society than that which we now, with much reluctance, are about to describe. The hope that this relation will cause every female to reflect, with detestation, on a wretch who could make such murderous practices a kind of business, alone determines us to give a place to the case of this abandoned woman.

On the 15th of August, 1732, Eleanor Beare, wife of Ebenezer Beare, of the town of Derby, labourer, was tried before a most crowded Court, for procuring abortion in women.

We forbear following the reporter of this trial through the evidence adduced against the prisoner;

let it therefore suffice to quote the speech of the counsel for the prosecution on opening the case, which was as follows:

'Gentlemen of the Jury,

'You have heard the indictment read, and may observe that this misdemeanor, for which the prisoner stands indicted, is of a most shocking nature. To destroy the fruit in the womb carries something in it so contrary to the natural tenderness of the female sex, that I am amazed how ever any woman should arrive at such a degree of impiety and cruelty as to attempt it in such a manner as the prisoner has done. It has really something so shocking in it, that I cannot well display the nature of the crime to you, but must leave it to the evidence. It is cruel and barbarous to the last de-

* This ceremony of the Catholic faith is thus performed:—A priest, when summoned for that purpose, forms a procession, consisting of an oblong canopy of cloth, borne by four of the inferior clergy, under which he walks, preceded by a boy, bareheaded, tinkling a little bell; at the sound of which passengers prepare to pay it due respect. They kneel down as it passes them, cross their foreheads, and touch their breasts, repeating a prayer. Arrived at the dying persons' abode, the priest receives their confessions, and then, for a small gratuity, absolves them of their sins, and declares that their souls will be received in heaven. A happy religion for those who can have faith in such superstition!

gree, and attended with the greatest danger to whoever it is practised upon.'

It was proved that this dangerous person had not only procured abortion in different women, but even persuaded a man named Nicholas Wilson, upon having a quarrel with his wife, to poison her; and for this purpose gave him a deadly powder, which the man, more humane, instead of administering, dug a hole in the earth, and buried it.

The learned judge before whom she was tried was greatly moved in summing up the evidence, and giving charge to the jury. He declared that he never met with a case so barbarous and unnatural. She was sentenced to close imprisonment for the term of three years, and to stand in and upon the pillory on the two next market-days in the town of Derby.

Pursuant to this sentence, she was exposed in the pillory three days afterwards, being the next market-day; when the populace expressed their indignation by pelting her with rotten eggs, and any filth they could collect; and she

might have expiated her crime with her life, had she not, in struggling, disengaged herself, and jumped among the crowd, from whose fury the sheriff's officers with great difficulty rescued her.

The next week she was again brought out of prison, and pilloried. As soon as she mounted the platform she kneeled down, and begged mercy of the still outrageous mob. The executioner, finding, from her struggling, some difficulty in getting her head through the hole of the pillory, pulled off her head-dress, and therein found a large pewter plate, beat out so as to fit her head, which he threw among the spectators. As soon as she was fixed, a shower of eggs, potatoes, turnips, &c. assailed her from every direction; and it was thought she would not be taken down alive. Having expended all the ammunition of the above description, stones were thrown, which wounded her to such a degree, that her blood streamed down the pillory. This somewhat appeased the resentments shown against her, and she returned to gaol a spectacle shocking to behold!

JAMES QUIN, ESQ.

CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER.

THIS celebrated hero of the sock and buskin was born in King Street, Covent Garden; but his father, who was of an ancient family in Ireland, was induced to return to his native country with his son, who was at that time of a very tender age.

Quin received his education at Dublin, and afterwards appears to have been sent to London, to study law, chambers having been provided for him in the Temple. Here he fell into that decoy which proves fatal to so many young men upon

their arrival in this great metropolis—dissipated company. Legal pursuits were, in a great degree, abandoned, and our hero was oftener to be seen at the theatres than in Westminster Hall. His father dying soon after this period, Quin's prospects in life underwent a considerable revolution, arising from circumstances of an unusual nature, connected with the marriage of his father and mother, the latter of whom appears to have miscalculated respecting the death of a former husband, who had been absent

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from her many years, but subsequently returned and claimed his wife. Thus the issue of her union with Mr. Quin becoming illegitimized, the estate of that gentleman seems to have reverted to the next heir, and the subject of this narrative found himself compelled to use his own resources for the purpose of pushing his fortune in the world.

Mr. Quin's inclinations led him to attempt the difficult and precarious profession of the stage; and the theatre at Dublin being then struggling for an establishment, our youth made his first public essay in that city when about twenty-one years of age. After performing there a season, he was advised not to smother his rising genius in a kingdom where there was no great encouragement for merit; and, adopting this suggestion, he came to London, and was immediately received into the company at Drury Lane. We are not about to give a long dramatic memoir, by following this eminent actor through all the varieties of his professional career; but shall concisely state the outlines of his life, and the unfortunate events which render his name liable to a place in our register.

At the period alluded to it was usual for young actors to perform inferior characters, and to rise in the theatre as they displayed skill and improvement. In conformity to this practice, the parts allotted to Quin were not calculated to procure much celebrity for him. Accident, however, at length afforded him an opportunity of showing his talents, which was not neglected. An order having been given by the lord-chamberlain to revive the play of 'Tamerlane,' it was got up with great magnificence; but, on the third night of its performance, the actor who sustained *Bajazet* being taken ill, Quin was requested to

read the part, which he did very successfully, and afterwards played it repeatedly to the great satisfaction of the audience. He now quitted Drury Lane to embrace a more advantageous engagement at the rival theatre then established in Lincoln's Inn Fields (since removed to Covent Garden), and here his fame rapidly grew, and extended to a pitch at that time almost unprecedented.

During our hero's continuance in this employment he was consulted in the conduct of the concern by his principal, as a kind of deputy-manager. While thus situated a circumstance took place, the relation of which may amuse our readers.

An author of most refined education, having written a tragedy (one of the greatest mental works of man), put it into Quin's hand, behind the scenes, when dressed in character, and ready to go on the stage. The mimic hero carelessly put it in his pocket, there left it when he changed his dress, went to the tavern, and thought no more of the circumstance. The anxious author's patience at receiving no answer being exhausted, he applied to Quin, who, with much *sang froid*, answered 'That it would not do.' The writer therefore requested that his manuscript might be returned; and on this was told, in the same easy and laconic style, 'That it lay in the window.' The mortified bard hastened to the spot pointed out by the dramatic tyrant, but, instead of his tragedy, found a comedy. He told Quin of the mistake, who in return said, 'If that is not it, I have certainly lost it.' 'Lost my tragedy!' said the distressed author. 'I certainly have,' said Quin; 'but here is a drawer full of tragedies and comedies, never acted, and you may take any two of them in the room of it!'

This is a pretty correct picture of the treatment which authors received from our London dramatic managers, unless backed by gold or interest; and we firmly believe that either one or the other can readily ensure, not only the performance, but, generally, the success, of such wretched patchwork plagiarisms and translations as are called modern plays.*

Mr. Quin subsequently went over again to Drury Lane Theatre, and was, until the appearance of Garrick, in 1741, generally allowed the foremost rank in his profession. Booth, the great tragedian who preceded him, was no more; and, among other of his characters, Quin succeeded to that of *Cato*—a part in which Booth had been highly popular from the first representation of that tragedy. There never, perhaps, was a dramatic work that more engaged the public interest. The contending parties in politics, on several nights of the first season of its appearance, ranged themselves, as in the House of Commons, on each side of the theatre, alternately applauding the patriotic and loyal speeches with which it abounds.

Though Booth was gone, 'Cato' was soon called for, and Quin prepared for this his greatest ordeal.

He requested that the bills of the performance might say that 'the part of Cato would be attempted by Mr. Quin,' with which the manager complied. The audience, pleased with his diffidence, received him with great applause, which encouraged him to call forth his utmost exertions. When the body of *Cato's* dead son, who was slain in battle, was brought upon the stage, upon Quin's repeating the line

'Thanks to the gods, my boy has done his duty!'

the audience were so struck with surprise at his energy, feeling, and manner, that, as it were with one accord, they exclaimed, 'Booth outdone! Booth outdone!' In delivering the celebrated soliloquy in the last act, the audience (very unusual in tragedy) cried 'Encore! encore!' without ceasing, until he repeated it, and the curtain fell under the greatest burst of applause.

Though Quin had received these honours by his representation of the rigidly virtuous Cato, yet, at a future time, it was that very performance which was the cause of his being arraigned at the bar of justice, the particulars respecting which occurrence we shall now proceed to give.

* The writer of these observations was present at Drury Lane Theatre three years ago, to witness the first performance of a new comedy. It was called 'The Choleric Man,' and was the avowed production of Holcroft, a good translator, and no mean writer. Never could an audience, without actual tumult, pronounce a more general and deserved damnation; for the utmost efforts of applauding friends were instantly silenced. Yet, amidst hissings, hootings, and cursings, it was given out for a second representation; and the manager's bills for the next day announced the new comedy to have been received with the most unbounded applause! in fine, they would have persuaded the public that 'The Choleric Man' had wheedled the audience into a good humour. It was acted a second time; and a third, in this kind of forced progress, of course succeeded, being, by ancient custom, the author's night. Poor Holcroft, who, by-the-by, must have sauced the second and third exposure of his declining faculties, had literally empty benches—there was not cash enough taken to pay for the night's consumption of wax and oil.

Mrs. Lee, who about the same time had a comedy consigned to the same fate, though a little, and but a little, better than Holcroft's, desired it might be withdrawn before its representation was three parts over, the audience appearing equally unwilling to hear it to an end. Thus it may be said of Mrs. Lee's dramatic writings, that, though her 'Chap-ter of Accidents' brought her credit and cash, her 'Day in London' produced a woeful night.

One evening an inferior actor, of the name of Williams, came to him on the stage, in the character of the Roman messenger, who says—'Cæsar sends health to Cato;' but he unfortunately pronounced the latter *Keeto*, which so affronted Quin, that, instead of giving the reply of the author, he said, 'Would he had sent a better messenger.' This so greatly incensed Williams, that, when the scene was over, he followed Quin into the green-room, complaining of the injury he had sustained in being made contemptible to the audience, and thereby hurt in his profession, and concluding by demanding satisfaction. Quin, instead of either apologizing for the affront, or accepting the challenge, made himself merry with the other's passion; a treatment that increased it to a degree of frenzy, so that, watching under the Piazza of Covent Garden as Quin was returning to his lodgings, he drew upon him, and the assailed, in defending himself, ran the unfortunate Williams through the body, which killed him upon the spot.

Quin immediately surrendered himself to the laws of his country, and under the circumstances here described, which were proved on his trial, we must agree with the jury, which found him guilty of manslaughter only.

It is not a little extraordinary that the subject of our narrative was engaged, both previously and subsequently to the above transaction, in personal rencounters with his brother actors, notwithstanding his goodness of heart and friendly disposition made him generally beloved. The first affair alluded to was between himself and a performer of the name of Bowen, and terminated fatally to the latter. Upon this occasion Quin likewise had been found guilty of manslaughter.

It appears that, on the 17th of April, 1718, about four or five o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Bowen and Mr. Quin met accidentally at the Fleece Tavern, in Cornhill. They drank together in a friendly manner, and jested with each other for some time, until at length the conversation turned upon their performances on the stage. Bowen said that Quin had acted *Tamerlane* in a loose sort of a manner; and Quin, in reply, observed that his opponent had no occasion to value himself on his performance, since Mr. Johnson, who had but seldom acted it, represented *Jacomo*, in 'The Libertine,' as well as he who had acted it often. These observations, probably, irritated them both, and the conversation changed, but to another subject not better calculated to produce good humour—the honesty of each party. In the course of the altercation Bowen asserted that he was as honest a man as any in the world, which occasioned a story about his political tenets to be introduced by Quin; and, both parties being warm, a wager was laid on the subject, which was determined in favour of Quin, on his relating that Bowen sometimes drank the health of the Duke of Ormond, and sometimes refused it; at the same time asking the referee how he could be as honest a man as any in the world, who acted upon two different principles. The gentleman nominated as umpire then told Mr. Bowen, that, if he insisted upon his claim to be as honest a man as any in the world, he must give it against him. Here the dispute seemed to have ended, nothing in the rest of the conversation indicating any remains of resentment in either party. Soon afterwards, however, Mr. Bowen arose, threw down some money for his reckoning, and left the company.

In about a quarter of an hour Mr. Quin was called out by a porter sent by Bowen, and both Quin and Bowen went together, first to the Swan Tavern, and then to the Pope's Head Tavern, where a rencounter took place, and Bowen received a wound, of which he died on the 20th of April following. In the course of the evidence it was sworn that Bowen, after he had received the wound, declared that he had had justice done him; that there had been nothing but fair play; and that, if he died, he freely forgave his antagonist. On this evidence Quin was, on the 10th of July, found guilty of manslaughter only, and soon after returned to his employment on the stage.

The last act of personal hostility in which our hero was engaged was with no less a person than the celebrated Theophilus Cibber, who at that period, owing to some disgraceful circumstances respecting his conduct to his wife, was not held in the most respectable light. Quin's sarcasm on him was too gross to be here inserted: the circumstances of the duel we relate in the words of one of the periodical writers of the times:

'About seven o'clock a duel was fought in the Piazza, Covent Garden, between Mr. Quin and Mr. Cibber; the former pulling the latter out of the Bedford coffee-house, to answer for some words he had used in a letter to Mr. Fleetwood, relating to his refusing to act a part in 'King Lear' for Mr. Quin's benefit on Thursday se'n night. Mr. Cibber was slightly wounded in the arm, and Mr. Quin wounded in his fingers. After each had their wounds dressed, they came into the Bedford coffee-house and abused one another; but the company prevented farther mischief.'

We are unwilling to dismiss this subject, though some may think it already spun to too great a length, without noticing the progression of the rivalry between Quin and Garrick. Like counsel at the bar, they were professionally violent enemies, but, the cause once decided, as great friends. After opposing each other many seasons, at different houses, they were engaged at the same theatre, and the tragedy of the 'Fair Penitent' announced for representation—the part of *Horatio* by Mr. Quin, and *Lothario* by Mr. Garrick. To see these great rival candidates for public fame on the boards together drew that night an overflowing house. The play began; the audience were big with expectation; and, when the heroes met, neither could utter a syllable. The house resounded with applause, while the opponents could only view each other with inward dread. After a long pause, occupied in plaudits from the spectators, they tremblingly began; but soon the contest rose to a pitch which, perhaps, has seldom since been witnessed.

During our hero's last illness, at Bath, he took bark in such large quantities, that it occasioned perpetual and intolerable thirst; and, conscious that he should soon die, after having endeavoured to make his peace with the Almighty, he determined to pass his few short days in as much ease as possible. He left off all medicine, and for a little time recovered something of his wonted spirits. A few days before he died, he drank a bottle of claret; but, finding his end now very near, he said, 'I wish the last tragic scene was over, and I hope I shall go through it with becoming dignity.' He lingered very little longer and died with resignation to the Divine will, greatly regretted, on the 21st.

of January, 1766, in the 73d year of his age, after having had his full share of the vicissitudes of life—and, upon the whole, conferred credit upon his profession.

As Quin declined the stage, the friendship between him and Garrick increased. Whenever the former, after his retirement to Bath, paid a short visit to London, Garrick's house was his home. When death had deprived the world of that fund of amusement and delight which they had experienced from Quin's performances, the English Roscius, to perpetuate his memory, and to hand to posterity a

record of his worth, wrote the following

EPITAPH:

'That tongue which set the table in a roar,
And charmed the public ear, is heard no more!

Closed are those eyes, the harbingers of wit,
Which spoke before the town what Shakspeare writ!

Cold are those hands, which, living, were stretch'd forth,
At friendship's call, to succour modest worth.

'Here lies James Quin! deign, reader, to be taught,
(Whate'er thy strength of body, force of thought,
In nature's happiest mould however cast.)
To his complexion thou must come at last.'



The Sexton alarmed on finding Powis secreted in the Church.

JOSEPH POWIS,

EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

JOSEPH POWIS was a native of St. Martin's in the Fields; and his father dying while he was an infant, his mother married a smith in

St. Martin's Lane, who was remarkable for his ingenuity.

The father-in-law going to Harfleur, in Normandy, with many

other skilful artists, to be concerned in an iron manufactory, took Powis with him when he was only eight years of age.

They had not been long here before the father-in-law received a letter, advising him of the death of his wife; on which he left the boy to the care of an Englishman, and came to London in order to settle his affairs, but soon returned to Normandy.

The scheme in which they had embarked failing, they came back to England, and the man, marrying a second wife, took a shop in Chancery Lane, London, and sent young Powis to school, where he made such progress, that a little time gave hope of his becoming a good Latin scholar.

But he had not been long at school before his father-in-law took him home, to instruct him in his own business; and hence his misfortunes appear to have arisen; for such was his attachment to literature, that, when he was sent of an errand, he constantly loitered away his time reading at the stall of some bookseller.

When he had been about four years with his father, two lads of his acquaintance persuaded him to take a stroll into the country, and they wandered through the villages adjacent to London for about a week, in a condition almost starving, sometimes begging food to relieve the extremities of hunger, and finally compelled by distress to return to town.

The father-in-law of Powis received him kindly, forgave his fault, and he continued about a year longer with him; but, having read a number of plays, he had imbibed such romantic notions as disqualified him for business.

Inspired with an idea of going on the stage, he offered his services to

Mr. Rich, then manager of Covent Garden Theatre; but, having repeated some parts of the tragedy of *Julius Cæsar*, Rich told him he was disqualified for the stage, and advised him to attend to his trade.

Soon after this Powis a second time quitted his father-in-law, and rambled through the country some days; but returning on a Sunday, in the absence of the family, he broke open a chest, and, taking out his best clothes, again decamped.

Nothing being missed except the boy's clothes, it was easily judged who must be the thief; wherefore the father-in-law went with a constable in search of the youth, whom he took before a magistrate, in the hope of making him sensible of his folly.

The justice threatening to commit him unless he made a proper submission, he promised to go home and do so; but, dropping his father-in-law in the street, he went to an acquaintance, to whom he communicated his situation, and asked his advice how to act. His friend advised him to go home, and discharge his duty; but this not suiting his inclination, and it being now the time of Bartholomew Fair, he engaged with one Miller to act a part in a farce exhibited at Smithfield.

His next adventure was the going to Dorking, in Surrey, with one Dutton, a strolling player, by whom he was taught to expect great things; but Dutton, having previously affronted the inhabitants, met with no encouragement; on which they proceeded to Horsham, in Sussex, where they were equally unsuccessful.

Powis now slept in a hay-loft, near the kitchen of an inn, and, being almost starved, he used to get in at the window and steal the vic-

tuals while the family were in bed. He likewise stole a new pair of shoes belonging to the landlord; but the latter, soon discovering the thief, took the shoes from him, and gave him an old pair instead.

About this time Dutton took Powis's clothes from him, and gave him others that were little better than rags.

Having left this town, they put up at an inn, where the landlord obliged the company to sleep in the hay-loft, admitting none but the manager to come within the house. At night Powis crept into the kitchen, devoured the remains of a cold pie, and stole a pair of boots and a pair of stockings, with which he retreated into the hay-loft. He continued to steal provisions several nights, till the landlord and Dutton watched, with loaded guns, in expectation of the thief, who, however, came not that night.

Powis, having obtained a few halfpence by one of his petty thefts, stole out from the hay-loft to drink at a public house; but the other landlord, being there, knew the boots to be his; on which our unfortunate adventurer hastily retreated to his loft, where he expected to lie secure; but the landlord, Dutton, and others, following him, seized him, and took him into the kitchen for examination. He readily confessed that he had stolen the victuals; on which he was delivered into the custody of two countrymen to guard him till the next day, when it was proposed to take him before a magistrate.

The family having retired to bed, Powis pretended to fall fast asleep; on which one of his guards said, 'How the poor fellow rests, notwithstanding his misfortunes;' to which the other said, 'Let me sleep an hour, and then I will watch while you sleep.'

In a few minutes both the men were asleep; on which Powis, thinking to escape, attempted to put on the boots; but, making some noise, the landlord heard him, and, coming down stairs, Powis affected to slumber as before. The landlord awakened the guardians, and bade them take more care of their prisoner; which having promised to do, they soon fell asleep again.

Our adventurer now took the boots in his hand, and, getting out of the inn-yard, ran with the utmost expedition till he got out of the town, and then drawing on the boots, he proceeded on his journey to London. However, he missed his way, and, getting on a common, knew not how to proceed; but going into a cow-house, in which was a quantity of flax, he lay down to rest. In the morning the owner of the flax found him, and inquiring what business he had there, Powis said that, being intoxicated, he had lost his way: on which the other directed him into the right road, and our hero hastened forward, in the apprehension of being pursued.

Towards evening he arrived near Dorking, but did not enter the town till it was nearly dark. As he was going through the street he heard a door open; and, turning round, a woman, who had a candle in her hand, called him; and, on his demanding what she wanted, she said to another woman, 'Sure enough it is he.'

This woman, who had washed the players' linen, said that two men had been in pursuit of him; and that his best way would be to avoid the high road, and get to London some other way with all possible expedition.

Powis immediately took this advice, and, quitting the turnpike-

road, got to a farm-house, where he stole some books and other trifles, ate some provisions, and then proceeded towards London, stopping at Stockwell, at a house kept by the mother of his father-in-law's wife. All this happened in the night; but, knowing the place, he went into the back yard, and lay down to sleep on some straw.

Observing several threshers come to work in the morning, he concealed himself under the straw till night, when he crept out, went to a public house, drank some beer, and returned to his former lodging.

Inspired by the liquor he had drank, he began to sing, which drawing some people round him, they conducted him into the house.

His mother-in-law, happening to be there on a visit, spoke with great kindness to him, and advised him to remain there till she had communicated the affair to her husband.

In a few days the father-in-law came to him, and expressed his readiness to take him home, if he would but attend his business, and decline his present vagrant course of life. This he readily agreed to do, and continued steady during the winter; but on the approach of summer he again left his friends, and rambled about near a month, subsisting on the casual bounty of his acquaintance.

Falling into company with Joseph Paterson, whom he had known among the strolling players, Paterson engaged him to perform a part in the tragedy of 'The Earl of Essex,' at Windmill Hill, near Moorfields, which was then the place of resort for the lower class of spouters in and near London.

The part of *Lord Burleigh* being assigned to Powis, and it being intimated in the printed bills *that this part was to be performed*

by 'A young gentleman, being his first appearance on the stage,' the curiosity of the public was somewhat excited, so that there was a full house. Unfortunately, *Lord Burleigh* was dressed in the shabbiest manner; and, being little better than a compound of rags and dirt, it was with some difficulty the minister of state went through his part, amidst the laughter and ridicule of the spectators.

Returning home through Ludgate Street, after the play, he saw a gentleman who said he had dropped three guineas, but had picked up one of them. Powis, happening to find the other two, kept one for himself, and gave the other to the owner, who, not knowing that he had retained one, insisted on his drinking a glass of wine, and thanked him for his civility.

Being stopped one night in Chancery Lane by a violent shower of rain, he climbed over a gate, and got under the shelter of a pent-house belonging to the Six Clerks' Office, where he remained till morning, when the clerks came to their business, and he was then afraid to appear, lest he should be taken for a thief from the shabbiness of his dress.

Leaning against a plastered wall, part of it broke; but, as the place he stood in was very dark, no one observed it; on which he resolved to profit by the accident: in consequence of this, he, at night, made the breach wider, and got into the office, whence he stole six guineas, and about fifty shillings in silver.

Having spent this money, he determined to join his old companions on Windmill Hill; and, in his way thither, he observed a fellow pick a countryman's pocket of a bag of money in Smithfield; and a cry of 'Stop thief!' being imme-

diately circulated, the pickpocket dropped the bag, which Powis took up unobserved, and, retiring to a public house, examined its contents, which he found to amount to above fifty pounds.

Having put the money in his pocket, he threw away the bag, and retired to his lodgings. This money, a greater sum than he had ever before possessed, was soon spent in extravagance, and he was again reduced to great extremities.

Thus distressed, he got into the area of a coffee-house in Chancery Lane, and attempted to force the kitchen-window; but, not succeeding, he secreted himself in the coal-cellar till the following evening, when he got into the house, and hid himself in a hole behind the chimney.

When the family was gone to rest, he stole some silver spoons, and about three shillings' worth of halfpence from the bar, and, having now fasted thirty hours, he ate and drank heartily; but, hearing a person come down stairs, he pulled off his shoes, and, retiring hastily, got into a hole where broken glass was kept, by which his feet were cut in a shocking manner.

It happened to be only the maid-servant who came down stairs; and, going into the kitchen, Powis put on his shoes, and ran through the coffee-room into the street.

Being again reduced, he broke into the Chancery Office, where he stole about four pounds ten shillings, which being spent, he looked out for a fresh supply. Going to St. Dunstan's Church, at the time of morning prayers, he hid himself in the gallery till night, and then stole some of the prayer-books, which he proposed to have carried off the next morning, when the sexton appeared, who, being more terrified than the thief, ran to procure

the assistance of another man; but in the mean time Powis had so secreted himself that they could not find him after a search of two hours; they therefore at length gave it up, concluding that he had got out through one of the windows. However, he remained in the church all that day, and at the hour of prayer next morning went off with as many books as produced him a guinea.

On the following night he visited an acquaintance in Ram Alley, Fleet Street, where he observed a woman deposit some goods in a room, the door of which she fastened with a padlock. On this he concealed himself in the cellar till towards morning, when he opened the padlock with a crooked nail, and stole two gold rings and a guinea, being baulked in his expectation of a much more valuable prize.

One of the prayer-books which he had stolen from St. Dunstan's Church he sold to a bookseller in the Strand; and, while the lady who had lost it was inquiring at the bookseller's if such a book had fallen into his hands, Powis happened to stop to speak with a gentleman at the door; on which the bookseller said, 'There is the man who sold it me;' and the lady replied, 'He is a thief, and has stolen it.'

The bookseller, calling Powis into his shop, asked if he had sold him that book, which he acknowledged; and, being desired to recollect how he had obtained it, he said he could not; on which the bookseller threatened to have him committed to prison; but the lady, now earnestly looking at him, asked if his name was Powis. He said it was; on which she burst into tears, and said, 'I am sorry for you, and for your poor father; you are the cause of all his unhappiness.' The

bookseller, happening likewise to know Powis's father, delivered the book to the lady, and permitted the young thief to depart, on promise to pay for it on the following day : but the day of payment never came.

A few nights after this he climbed up the sign-post belonging to a pastry-cook in Fleet Street, and got in at a chamber-window, whence he descended into the shop ; but, not finding any money in the till, stole only two or three old books, and filled his pockets with tarts, with which he decamped.

Calling some days afterwards at the same shop to buy a tart, he found the people of the house entertaining themselves with the idea of the disappointment the thief had met with : and a lady who lodged in the house produced her gold watch, saying she supposed that had been the object of his search.

This circumstance encouraged him to make another attempt ; wherefore, on the following night, he again ascended the sign-post, and got in at the window ; but, hearing a person coming down stairs without shoes, he got back to the sign-post, descended, and ran off. He was instantly pursued, but escaped through the darkness of the night.

Chagrined at this disappointment, he sauntered into the fields, and lay down under a hay-rick. He slumbered awhile ; but, being distressed in mind, he imagined he heard a voice crying, ' Run, run, fly for your life ; for you are pursued, and if you are taken you will be hanged.' He started with wild affright, and large drops of sweat ran down his face, occasioned by the agitation of his mind.

Finding that he had only been disturbed by a dream, he again lay down ; but the stings of his conscience continuing to goad him, he

dreamt that a person came to him, saying, ' Young man, you must go away from hence ; for, were I to suffer you to remain here, I should expect a judgment to fall on me : so go away, or I will fetch a constable, who shall oblige you to go.' Being again terrified, he walked round the hay-rick, calling out ' Who is there ?' but receiving no answer, he lay down once more, and dreamt that his father-in-law stood by him, and spoke as follows :— ' O son ! will you never take warning till justice overtakes you ? The time will come when you will wish, but too late, that you had been warned by me.'

Unable now to sleep, through the agonies of his mind, he wandered about till morning, and had formed a resolution of returning to his father-in-law ; but as he was going to him he met an old acquaintance, who paid him a debt of a few shillings ; and, going to drink with him, Powis soon forgot the virtuous resolutions he had formed.

On parting from this acquaintance he went to the house of another, where he slept five hours ; and then, being extremely hungry, went to a public house, where he supped, and spent all his money, except eight-pence.

Thus reduced, he resolved to make a fresh attempt on the Chancery-office, for which purpose he broke through the wall, but found no booty.

In the mean time his father-in-law exerted his utmost endeavours to find him, to consult his safety ; and, having met with him, told him it would be imprudent for him to stay longer in London, as people began to be suspicious of him : wherefore he advised him to go to Cambridge, and work as a journeyman with a smith of his acquaintance.

Young Powis consenting, the father bought him new clothes, furnished him with some good books, and gave him money to proceed on his journey. He now left the old gentleman; but soon afterwards meeting with six strolling players, one of whom he had formerly known, they sat down to drinking; at which they continued till all Powis's money was spent, and then he sold his new clothes.

Our young adventurer now became so hardened in guilt that there appeared no prospect of his reformation. One Sunday morning early he attempted to break open the house of a baker in Chancery Lane; but the family being alarmed, he was obliged to decamp without his booty, though not without being known. This affair coming to the knowledge of the father, he commissioned some friends to tell the boy, if they should meet him, that he was still ready to receive him with kindness, if he would mend his conduct.

Powis, being now very much distressed, applied to his still generous relation, who advised him to go to the West Indies, as the most effectual method of being out of danger; and he promised to furnish him with necessaries for the voyage.

Accepting the offer, Powis was properly fitted out, and sent on board a ship in the river, where he was confined in the hold, to prevent his escaping. In a day or two afterwards he was allowed the liberty of the ship; but most of the seamen now going on shore to take leave of their friends, he resolved to seize the opportunity of making his escape, and of taking something of value with him.

Waiting till it was night, he broke open a chest belonging to a passenger, and, having stolen a handsome suit of clothes, he took the oppor-

tunity of the people on watch going to call others to relieve them; and, dropping down the side of the ship, got into a boat; but, having only a single oar, he was unable to steer her; and, after striving a considerable time, was obliged to let her drive; the consequence of which was, that she ran on shore below Woolwich.

Quitting the boat, he set off towards London; but near Deptford he met with two men, who asked him to sell his wig; on which he went to a public house with them, where they told him that a friend of theirs had been robbed of such a wig, and they suspected him to be the robber. Powis saw through the artifice, and, calling the landlord, desired that a constable might be sent for to take the villains into custody; but the men immediately threw down their reckoning, and ran off in the utmost haste.

Our adventurer, proceeding to London, changed his clothes, and took to his former practice of housebreaking; in which, however, he was remarkably unsuccessful. Strolling one night to the house where he had formerly been at Stockwell, he got in at the window, and stole a bottle of brandy, a great coat, and some other articles; but the family being alarmed, he was pursued and taken.

As he was known to the people of the house, they threatened to convey him to the ship; but he expressed so much dread at the consequence, that they conducted him to his father-in-law, whose humanity once more induced him to receive the returning prodigal with kindness.

Powis now lived regularly at home about nine weeks, when, having received about a guinea as Christmas-box money, he got into company, and spent the whole;

after which he renewed his former practices.

Having concealed himself under some hay in a stable in Chancery Lane, he broke into a boarding-school adjoining to it, whence he stole some books and a quantity of linen: and, soon after this, he broke into the house of an attorney, and, getting into a garret, struck a light; but some of the family being alarmed, there was an outcry of 'Thieves!' A man ascending a ladder being observed by Powis, he attempted to break through the tiling; but, failing in this, the other cried 'There is the thief!' Terrified by these words, he got into a gutter, whence he dropped down to a carpenter's yard adjoining, but could get no farther.

While he was in this situation, the carpenter, going into the yard with a candle, took him into custody, and lodged him in the roundhouse; but on the following day his father-in-law exerted himself so effectually, that the offence was forgiven, and he was once more taken home to the house of this ever-indulgent friend.

After he had been three months at home, the father-in-law was employed to do some business for Mr. Williams, a Welsh gentleman of fortune, who having brought his lady to London to lie in, she died in child-bed; and it was determined that she should be buried in Wales. Hereupon Powis's father-in-law was sent for to examine all the locks, &c. that the effects might be safe in the absence of Mr. Williams.

Our youth, being employed as a journeyman in this business, found a box of linen that was too full, on which he took out some articles. In removing the linen he found a small box, remarkably heavy, which, on examination, appeared to contain *diamonds, jewels, rings, a gold watch,*

and other articles, to the amount of more than 200*l.* all which he stole, and put the box in its place. This being done, he called the maid to see that all was safe, and delivered her the key of the larger box.

Being possessed of this booty, Powis consulted an acquaintance as to the method of disposing of it, who advised him to melt the gold, and throw the jewels into the Thames. This being agreed upon, the acquaintance kept the jewels; and the gold being sold for eleven guineas, Powis had seven of them, which he soon squandered away.

About a fortnight after the effects were stolen Powis was apprehended on suspicion of the robbery, and committed to Newgate; and, being tried at the next sessions, was sentenced to be transported for seven years; the jury having given a verdict that he was guilty of stealing to the value of thirty-nine shillings.

He lay in Newgate a considerable time; till at length his father-in-law, after repeated entreaties, and a promise of a total reformation of manners, made such interest, that he was burnt in the hand, and set at large.

Yet again was this ungrateful boy taken under his parent's roof, where he continued about seven months; when, meeting with one of his dissolute companions, he spent all his money, and was then afraid to return home.

He now refrained some time from acts of theft; and, taking lodgings in an alley in Fleet Street, subsisted by borrowing money of his acquaintance. Soon afterwards, however, he broke open a trunk at his lodgings, and stole some linen, which he pawned for five shillings and sixpence.

On the next day the landlord charged him with the robbery; but,

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not intending to prosecute him, was content with recovering his linen from the pawnbrokers, and took Powis's word for making good the deficient money.

In less than a week after the adjustment of this affair our young, but hardened, villain broke open the coffee-house in Chancery Lane which we have already mentioned, and stole a few articles, which produced him about thirty shillings: and soon afterwards he broke into the Chancery-office, where he stole two books, which he sold for half a crown.

On the following evening he went again to the office, and hid himself under the staircase; but, being heard to cough by a man who had been left to watch, he was taken into custody, and conveyed to a tavern in the neighbourhood, where his father-in-law attended, and pleaded so forcibly in his behalf, that he was permitted to go home with him for the night.

On the following day some gentlemen came to examine him, when he denied the commission of a variety of crimes with which he had been charged; but the gentlemen, having consented to his escape for this time, advised him not to appear again in that neighbourhood, as the Masters in Chancery had given strict orders for prosecuting him.

After receiving some good advice from his father-in-law, he was recommended to work with a smith in Milford Lane, in the Strand: but Powis had a brother who called upon him a few days afterwards, and told him that a warrant was issued to apprehend him for robbing the Chancery, which obliged him to abscond.

Strolling one evening in the Spa Fields, near Islington, some constables apprehended him as a vagrant, and lodged him, with several

others, in New Prison; and on the following day most of the prisoners were discharged by a magistrate, and Powis was ordered to be set at liberty; but, not having money to pay his fees, he was taken back to the prison, where he remained a few days longer, and was then set at liberty by the charity of a gentleman, who bade him 'thank God, and take care never to get into trouble again.'

In a short time after his discharge he broke into the Earl of Peterborough's house at Chelsea, and stole some trifling articles from the kitchen, which he sold for four shillings; and on the following night he robbed another house in the same neighbourhood of some effects, which he sold for ten shillings.

This trifling sum being soon spent, he broke open a house in Lincoln's Inn Fields, where he got a considerable quantity of money; and, to prevent persons who knew him from suspecting that he was the thief, he forged a letter, as coming from his grandfather in Yorkshire, purporting that he had sent him such a sum.

In a short time afterwards, at a kind of ball given by one of his companions to celebrate his birthday, Powis fell in love with a girl who made one of the company.

The girl paying no attention to his addresses, Powis waited on her mother, and, after some conversation with her, was permitted to pay his personal respects to the daughter, to whom he pretended that his grandfather in Yorkshire would leave him a large sum of money; and, in proof of what he said, he showed her some counterfeit letters, appearing to have the post-mark on them.

The girl made no objection to him as a husband; but said it would

be prudent in him to visit his grandfather, and ask his consent to the match, which would contribute to her peace of mind. On this he left her, and broke open a house that evening, whence he stole a few things, which he sold for fifteen shillings, and, calling on her the next day, took his leave, as if preparing for his journey.

His plan was to commit some robbery by which he might obtain a considerable sum, and then, concealing himself for some time, return to his mistress, and pretend that his grandfather had given him the money.

Going to see 'The Beggars' Opera,' he was greatly shocked at the appearance of *Macheath* on the stage in fetters, and could not forbear reflecting what might be his own future fate; yet about a week afterwards he broke open a cook's shop, and stole some articles, the sale of which produced him a guinea.

On the following day he called at Newgate, treated the prisoners to the amount of seven shillings, and, on his quitting the prison, met two girls whom he knew; and with them he went to Hampstead, where he treated them to the amount of twelve shillings and sixpence; so that only eighteen pence remained of his last ill-gotten guinea.

On the following day Powis went to the Black Raven, in Fetter Lane, where he observed the landlord put some gold into a drawer, of which he determined, if possible, to possess himself. About midnight he went away, having first stolen the pin that fastened the cellar-window.

Returning at two in the morning, he got into the cellar, and attempted to open the door of the tap-room; but, failing in this, he was about to return by the way he had entered, when a watchman coming by, and seeing the window open, alarmed

the family. Powis now escaped into a carpenter's yard, and hid himself: but the landlord coming down, and several persons attending, he was apprehended; not, however, till one person had run a sword through his leg, and another struck him a blow on the head that almost deprived him of his senses; circumstances of severity which could not be justified, as he made no resistance.

The offender was lodged in the Compter for the present, and, being removed to Newgate, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, convicted of the burglary, and received sentence of death. The jury, considering the cruelty with which he had been treated, recommended him to mercy: however, the royal favour was not extended to him, as he had before been sentenced to transportation.

When brought up to receive sentence, he begged to be represented as an object worthy of the royal lenity; but was told not to expect such indulgence. He likewise wrote to his sweetheart to exert her influence, which she promised, but could do nothing to serve him.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 9th of October, 1732, along with William Shelton, at the age of twenty-two years, after admonishing the spectators to take warning by his fatal end, and expressing the utmost detestation of the irregularities of his life.

The case of this malefactor will afford a very striking lesson to youth. In the former part of his life we see the miserable situation of a strolling player; and surely the distresses he encountered will be deemed enough to terrify thoughtless young men, who are fond of what is called spouting, from engaging in this vagrant course of life.

The terrors of Powis's conscience

when he lay down to sleep under the hay-rick show that there is no peace to the wicked. One self-approving hour, the consequence of having discharged our duty, must afford more solid satisfaction than whole months spent in that riot and debauchery which may be purchased with ill-gotten wealth.

Nothing, surely, can be equal to the goodness with which Powis was treated by his father-in-law. His kindness appears to have been almost without example, and what

could scarcely have been expected even from a real parent.

This offender, then, sinned against all advice, all warning, all indulgence: but we trust his fate will have a forcible effect on young people who may read this narrative. We hope it will, in a particular manner, teach them the necessity of duty to their parents; and that the only way to be happy in advanced life is to be virtuous and religious while they are young.

WILLIAM SHELTON,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY,

Was born of respectable parents near Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, and received a liberal education in the learned languages. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an apothecary at Enfield; but his master applied to his father to take him back at the end of two years, as his conduct was so irregular that he did not choose any farther connexion with him.

In consequence hereof he was placed with an apothecary at Stoke Newington; and, though he still kept gay company, served six years with a fair character.

About this time he became violently enamoured of his mistress's sister, who was by no means insensible to his addresses. She lived in the family; but no person suspected their intimacy, till the mistress accidentally heard her sister freely represent to Shelton the disagreeable consequences that must arise from his keeping bad company and late hours.

Shelton's master and his wife both disapproved of the intended match, on account of his keeping too much gay company; and his own parents objected to it from the same reason, wishing him to acquire greater steadiness of mind before he married.

When his seventh year was completed he took leave of the young lady with professions of lasting love; and his father having supplied him with money, he engaged in business, and was for some time greatly successful; but his immoderate attachment to pleasure lost him much of his business and many of his friends.

He had not been long in trade before he became enamoured of a young lady, daughter of a widow in his neighbourhood; and, having made an acquaintance with her unknown to her mother, he conveyed her out of a back window of the house, and married her at the Fleet: so soon had he forgotten his vows to the former lady!

The father of the bride having been a citizen of London, her fortune had been deposited in the hands of the Chamberlain, who readily paid it to the husband.

Shelton was still in considerable business; but his attachment to company was such that his expenses exceeded his income, so that he grew daily poorer; and his father dying about this time, left all his fortune to his widow, for her life; so that Shelton had nothing to expect till after the death of his mother.

He now made acquaintance with some people of abandoned character, and took to a habit of gaming, by which his circumstances became still more embarrassed; and he was obliged to decline business after he had followed it only two years.

Thus distressed, he entered as surgeon on board a ship bound to Antigua, and was received with such singular tokens of respect by the inhabitants of the island, that he resolved to settle there as a surgeon, and write to England for his wife to come over to him; but unforeseen circumstances prevented his carrying this scheme into execution.

In the island of Antigua it is customary to exercise the militia weekly, when the officers on duty treat their brethren in rotation, and invite what company they please. Mr. Shelton was invited by Colonel Ker, who gave a generous treat, and urged his friends to drink freely. On the approach of night some of them would have gone home; but the colonel prevailed on them to stay till the next day, hinting that it might be dangerous to meet some negroes who had quitted the plantation.

Shelton agreed, among others, to stay; but he had not been long in bed when the liquor he had drank occasioned the most excruciating pain in his bowels. The next morning he took some medicines to abate the pain, and the end was answered for the present; but he determined to embark for England, as he thought he felt the symptoms of an approaching consumption.

Hereupon he sailed for his native country, and arrived to the surprise of his friends, who had been taught to expect that he would continue in Antigua. They, however, advised him to settle at Buntingford, in *Hertfordshire*, where there was a

vacancy occasioned by the death of an apothecary.

Shelton having inquired into the affair, and finding no prospect worth his notice, his wife's mother persuaded him to take a house at Brassin, a village near Buntingford, intimating that she would live with him, and be at the expense of house-keeping. This proposal was accepted; but, when the leases were drawn, the old lady refused to execute them, so that Shelton was obliged to abandon his agreeable prospect in a way that appeared not very reputable to himself.

Distressed in mind, and not knowing how to support himself, he determined to commence highwayman; and, having hired a horse, and furnished himself with pistols, he rode to Finchley Common; but after looking out some hours, and meeting with no booty there, he returned towards London, in his way to which he took about thirty shillings from four ladies, whom he stopped in a coach, and obtained three shillings and sixpence from a gentleman he met on the road.

He now put on a mask; and, thus disguised, robbed the passengers in three stage-coaches on Epping Forest of their watches and money. Some persons on horseback immediately pursued him, and were very near him at Waltham Abbey; but, taking a different road, he went round by Cheshunt, and escaped to London, where he the next day heard that his pursuers had galloped after him to Enfield.

The watches he sold to a Jew, and, having spent the money, he rode out to Hounslow Heath, where he demanded a gentleman's purse; and, after some hesitation on the part of the latter, robbed him of thirty-two guineas and some silver. This done, he crossed the Thames to Richmond, where he dined, and

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afterwards stopped two ladies in a coach on Putney Common, but got no booty from them, as they had just before been robbed by another highwayman.

On the same evening he robbed a Quaker of nine pounds; and early on the following morning stopped the Northampton stage, and robbed the passengers of twenty-seven pounds. The reason for these rapid robberies was that he had a debt to discharge which he had contracted at the gaming-table; and which being done, he appeared among his former companions as before.

Soon after this he rode towards Chiswick, in the hope of meeting a colonel in the army; but, as the gentleman knew him, he was apprehensive of being recollected by his voice, though he wore a mask. The colonel, seeing a man masked coming forward, produced a pistol, and, on the other coming up, fired at him, and grazed the skin of his horse's shoulder. Shelton now fired, and wounded the colonel's horse, on which the colonel discharged his other pistol, but without effect. Hereupon the highwayman demanded his money, which having received, to the amount of about fifty pounds, he took a circuit round the country, and came into London at night.

On the week following this robbery he obtained a booty of ten guineas, some silver, and two gold watches, on Finchley Common; but, being pursued by some gentlemen on horseback, he concealed himself on Enfield Chase, and, having eluded his pursuers, he rode to London, robbing in his way a gentleman and lady of between thirty and forty shillings, on Muswell Hill.

On the following evening he took a ride, but did not rob any person: on his return through Islington, however, he heard somebody cry

out 'Stop the highwayman!' on which he rode hastily up a lane, where his horse had nearly stuck fast in a slough; but, getting through it, he rested in a field, and saw his pursuers waiting in expectation of him. He therefore made a circle, and got down Goswell Street, to the end of Old Street, where he again heard the cry of 'A highwayman!' on which he rode to Dog-house Bar, and escaped by the way of Moorfields.

Soon after this he rode to Enfield Chase, and, putting on a mask, robbed one of the northern stages while the driver was watering his horses at a pond. Some men who were playing at skittles, seeing this robbery, surrounded his horse; but, on his firing a pistol, they ran away, and he pursued his road to London.

Having one day committed a robbery on the Hertford road, he was returning to town, when he overtook two farmers, who had been drinking at an alehouse till they were pot-valiant, and were wishing to meet Dr. Shelton, whom they would certainly take; and they wondered how people could permit him to proceed unmolested. On this Shelton presented his pistol, and they delivered their money with every sign of fear: the money was but trifling, which he returned, laughing at them for their assumed courage.

His next robbery was on Finchley Common, where he took several watches, and sixteen pounds, from the company in the Northampton stage; and the name of Shelton was now become so notorious, that many other robbers courted his acquaintance; among whom were two men who had formed a design of robbing the turnpike-man on Stamford Hill, but had not resolution to carry their plan into execution.

This design was no sooner men-

tioned to Shelton than he agreed to be concerned; whereupon they went on foot from London at ten o'clock at night; but before they reached the spot Shelton's companions hesitated, and would go no farther; on which they returned to town, in their way to which they robbed a gentleman of a few shillings: but Shelton determined to have no farther connexion with these people.

His next assault was on two gentlemen in a chaise, both of them armed with pistols, in the road from Hounslow, from whom he took sixteen pounds; and soon after this, being destitute of cash, and determined to make a bold attempt, he robbed several coaches one evening, and acquired a booty of ninety pounds, exclusive of rings and watches.

In consequence of these repeated depredations a proclamation was issued for taking Shelton into custody, in which a minute description was given of his person: on this he concealed himself some time in

Hertfordshire, but had not been there long before a person who recollected him informed a neighbouring magistrate, on which he was taken into custody, and conveyed to London.

He was tried at the next Old Bailey sessions for several robberies in Middlesex, and, being convicted, was sentenced to die.

While in prison Shelton affected great gaiety of disposition, and was fond of entertaining his visitors with the history of his exploits. At times, indeed, he would be more serious, but soon recurred to his former volatility.

On the arrival of the warrant for his execution he seemed greatly agitated, and it was remarked that he shed some tears; but, having recourse to the bottle, he dissipated those ideas that had given him uneasiness.

He was hanged at Tyburn, Oct. 9, 1732, having refused to perform the customary devotions at the place of execution.

ISAAC AND THOMAS HALLAM,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THOUGH this case, like that of Eleanor Beare, is extremely interesting, yet we could find no collected account of any particulars respecting the lives of the culprits. Professing to render our work more copious than any on the same subject which may have gone forth before us, we have carefully put together every mention made in the old periodical publications of many notorious offenders hitherto passed over, and formed them into regular reports, some of which will be found equally interesting with any in our Calendar.

Isaac and Thomas Hallam, two brothers, had long and successfully carried on a scheme of daring rob-

beries, and perpetrated cruel murders, insomuch that government offered a reward for their apprehension.

They were at length taken, and charged with the murder of William Wright, a youth of only eighteen years of age, who was found in a post-chaise at Faldingworth Gate, near Market Raisin, in Lincolnshire, with his head almost severed from his body, covered over with the seat-cloth, and his pockets rifled.

In consequence of the proclamation extraordinary search was made after these desperate depredators; but they baffled their pursuers nearly a month. Being, however, taken

into custody, they were committed to the gaol of the city of Lincoln.

Among their various outrages, they, in mere wantonness, forced a post-boy to blow his horn, then told him he had sounded his own death-peal, and immediately cut his throat, as well as that of his horse; and the bodies of the man and the beast were next morning found close together. In consequence of this detestable barbarity the post-boys of Lincoln mustered with horns on their entrance into that town, and greeted them with their loudest blasts; whereupon, now stung with remorse, one of them was observed to weep.

They were convicted of the murders of William Wright and Thomas Gardner; and afterwards confessed that they committed, in company with each other, sixty-three robberies and one murder, exclusive of that for which they were condemned to die. Yet did these shocking offenders attempt to evade their punishment. They procured a case-knife, which they notched like a

saw, in order to cut off their irons; and then, with a spike-nail, they began digging through the wall of their prison, but were detected. In passing to the place of the execution of Isaac, which was the spot where they had murdered the post-boy, this wretched man fell into violent agonies and perturbation of mind. At the gallows, there being no clergyman to attend them, he called to one of the spectators to assist him in his devotions, which the good man readily complied with; and he prayed with much fervency. Thomas was ordered to be carried farther, to the place where they had murdered William Wright; but on his seeing his brother turned off, and struggling with death, he shrieked out in a dreadful manner. He then was drawn to Faldingworth Gate, where he died in the utmost agonies of mind; both having acknowledged the justice of their sentence, and calling upon the Almighty to forgive their sins. These executions took place on the 20th of February, 1733.

WILLIAM ALCOCK,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

THIS unnatural and cruel man was an inhabitant of the town of Bourn, in Lincolnshire. He had been married only two years when he left his wife, who was afflicted with the palsy, giving out that his absence was in consequence of having found her in bed with another man. He travelled to Colchester, married again, and set up in his business, that of a miller, in which he was successful. He employed a man of the name of Peck as his assistant; but, upon some words arising between them, Alcock discharged him, without suffering him to complete the job he had in hand. Peck replied, 'I'll do as good a job for you; for I have heard you have

a wife in Lincolnshire, and I'll travel the kingdom over till I find her, and send her to you.' Upon this he instantly set out, and bent his course in order to fulfil his threat. He inquired at every town he came to in Lincolnshire until he actually found Mrs. Alcock. In effecting this he spent nearly two years; and, to defray his expenses, he occasionally stopped for a few days to work: and, when his wages were expended in his travels, he worked again; thus persevering until he had accomplished his determined purpose. The parish-officers of Bourn, who had the maintenance of the deserted woman to provide, received Peck's information, and

dispatched two of the parishioners to Colchester, with whom Alcock entered into a compromise, on the following conditions:—to pay down twenty pounds, and, within a month, thirty pounds more, and to fetch away his wife from Bourn. He accordingly arrived there on the 22d of August, 1732, on a good horse, and a new pillion for his wife to ride on behind him. He, however, tried every means to induce the officers to keep her, offering a yearly sum sufficient for that purpose; and observed that 'she was so disagreeable to him that he would rather be hanged than take her again.'

Finding his offers all rejected, he set off with her on the 24th, and on the next day the body of the unfortunate woman was discovered in a ditch under a willow-tree, near Pilsgate, in the parish of Barnack, in Northamptonshire, and about eight miles from Bourn. It appeared that she had been strangled with a small cord, which but just met about her neck; and the pillion was found a little distance from the body. The murderer immediately proceeded to Colchester, was apprehended on the 28th by officers from Bourn, and the next day fully committed to gaol.

Though convicted on the clearest evidence, yet this obdurate man, even to the last moment of his existence, denied the justice of his sentence; and his behaviour, during the short interval allowed prisoners to make their peace with God, evinced the most shocking depravity.

He constantly refused the consolations of devotion, and paid no attention to the warnings of a clergyman, who at length desisted from farther exhortations. On the morning of his execution he drank to intoxication;* yet, on coming out of the prison, he sent for a pint of wine, which being refused him by the sheriff, he would not get into the cart which waited to convey him to execution until the money given for that purpose was returned to him. On the road to the gallows he sung part of the old song of 'Robin Hood,' adding to each verse the chorus of 'Derry down, &c. At intervals he swore, kicked, and spurned, at any person who touched the cart. When tied up to the fatal tree, he kicked off his shoes, to avoid a well-known proverb; and being told by a person in the cart with him, and who wished, thus late, to reclaim him, that he had much better read and repent than thus vilely swear and sing, he struck the book out of this humane man's hands, damned the spectators, and called for wine. During the singing of psalms, and reading of prayers, this monster was employed in talking and nodding to his acquaintance; telling some to remember him, others to drink to his good journey; and with his last words he inveighed against the injustice of his sentence.

He was hanged at Northampton, March 9, 1733, amid the groans and detestation of many thousand spectators.

SARAH MALCOLM,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE Temple, and the other Inns of Court, were built for the accommodation of lawyers alone. They contain apartments of two, three,

and some of them four, rooms each, fitted up for single gentlemen; there being no kind of accommodation for a family in any of them. Yet,

* The gaoler deserved punishment who suffered this wretch to be supplied with liquor to such an extent.

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from the fashion of men of law taking private houses, where they could at once transact their business and bring up their families, chambers were neglected; and the owners, preferring tenants of no legal skill to no tenants at all, let them out to any that offered; consequently many private people creep about the Inns of Court; and women too, reconciling every inconvenience, often presided at the dinner-table where of late lay clients' papers, musty parchments, and the dry volumes of the law, tumbled together in dust and disorder.

Upon each set of chambers is a kind of entailment, under the name of a laundress, who now and then sweeps the rooms, and daily makes the supposed student's bed, for the remuneration of a yearly servant. Thus, one of these laundresses, with single men, will attend six, eight, and even ten, sets of chambers; and, calculating the average hire of female servants in London at ten pounds, the place of a laundress, including the variety of little pilferings which the heedless owner does not miss, with the comfortable profits of washing, mending, &c. may be, in several instances, valued at one hundred pounds a year.

One of these laundresses was Sarah Malcolm, who basely betrayed her trust, and murdered her employer.* Her father was a man of some property in the county of Durham, where she was born in the year 1711.

He being a man much addicted to pleasure and extravagance, the estate soon became mortgaged, except his wife's jointure. He then, in company with his wife and daughter, set out for Dublin, the place of his wife's nativity; where he purchased a situation in one of the public

offices belonging to that city, the profits of which enabled him to live in credit, and to give his daughter an education superior to that of the common class of people.

Our unfortunate heroine, being naturally of a sprightly disposition, wholly engaged the affections of her parents, with whom she lived on terms of reciprocal esteem.

Some years after, her father having some business of consequence to settle, they came to London, where, his wife dying in a short time, he married another, who not being agreeable to the daughter's disposition, a separation ensued between them.

In consequence of the above, Sarah, who was now arrived at woman's estate, was obliged to have recourse to servitude for a subsistence. In this station she lived in many reputable families with great credit, being much commended for her diligence and sobriety. At last, unfortunately for her, she became a servant at the Black Horse, a public house near Temple Bar, where she contracted an acquaintance with one Mary Tracy, a woman of light character, and two young men who were brothers, named Thomas and James Alexander.

From this house she was recommended, as a laundress, to take care of gentlemen's chambers in the Temple; and amongst her employers was a Mr. Kerril, a young gentleman from Ireland. She officiated also as a charwoman to Mrs. Lydia Duncomb, a lady of about eighty years of age, who had chambers also in the Temple, where she kept two servants—Elizabeth Harrison, aged sixty, and Ann Price, about seventeen.

This lady being reputed very rich, a scheme was formed by Sarah

* Laundresses have always a key of the chambers they attend. To abuse this confidence in a midnight murder and robbery is most horrible!

of robbing her chambers, in order, as it was supposed, by dint of money, to gain one of the Alexanders as a husband.

On Saturday, the 3d of February, 1733, Sarah called at Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, where she staid till about eight o'clock in the evening, under a pretence of visiting Harrison, who was just recovered from a fit of sickness; Mrs. Love, a lady who had engaged to dine with Mrs. Duncomb the next day, being present at the time.

It was afterwards imagined that the true meaning of her visit was, either to secrete the key of the door, or to spoil the lock, so as to gain an easier admittance to put her diabolical design into execution; as the horrid murders were either committed that night, or early the next morning.

On Sunday, the following day, about nine in the morning, a Mr. Gahagan, who had chambers on the same floor, breakfasted with Mr. Kerril, after which they went to the Commons together; during which time Mrs. Love, already mentioned, coming to Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, could not gain admittance: after waiting a considerable time she went down stairs, when, meeting a person of the name of Oliphant, she inquired whether she had seen any of Mrs. Duncomb's family; who replying she had not, it made her conclude that the old maid, Elizabeth Harrison, was dead, and that Ann Price was gone to acquaint her sister with the news.

Mrs. Oliphant then went to Mrs. Rhymer, (executrix to Mrs. Duncomb,) who returned with her to the chambers, but could make no one hear; when, seeing Sarah Malcolm at the Bishop of Bangor's door, they called to her, and begged *she would fetch a smith to force open the door; to which she immediately*

consented, but returned without one: when Mrs. Love expressing her fears that they were all dead, Mrs. Oliphant proposed getting out of her master's window into the gutter, where, by breaking a pane of glass, she could easily open Mrs. Duncomb's casement, which was accordingly effected. Mrs. Love, Mrs. Rhymer, and herself, then went in; and the first object that presented itself in the passage was the body of Ann Price, lying on her bed, wallowing in blood, with her throat cut from ear to ear.

In the next room lay Elizabeth Harrison, strangled; and in an adjoining room the poor old lady, also strangled on her bed; the box where she kept her money being broken open, and stripped of its contents, excepting a few papers only.

The neighbourhood became soon alarmed with the news of these dreadful murders. Mr. Gahagan and Mr. Kerril, happening to pass at the time, and seeing a crowd of people about the chambers, inquired what was the matter; upon which they were informed of the shocking murders committed on Mrs. Duncomb and her servants.

As they walked on, Mr. Gahagan said to Mr. Kerril, 'Mrs. Duncomb was your Sarah's acquaintance,' which the latter passed unnoticed. On their arrival at a coffee-house in Covent Garden these horrid murders engrossed the conversation of the whole company, who seemed to be unanimous in the opinion that they must have been committed by some laundress who was well acquainted with the chambers.

From the coffee-house these gentlemen adjourned to the Horse-shoe and Magpie, in Essex Street, where they continued till about one in the morning, when they both returned

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to Mr. Kerril's chambers. On their entrance they found Sarah Malcolm, with the door open, lighting a fire. 'So Sarah,' says Mr. Kerril, 'are you here at this time of the morning? You knew Mrs. Duncomb; have you heard of any body that is taken up for the murder?'—'No,' said she; 'but a gentleman who had chambers under her has been absent two or three days, and he is suspected.' Kerril replied thus: 'Nobody who was acquainted with Mrs. Duncomb shall be in my chambers till the murderer is discovered; and therefore look up your things, and begone.'

In the interim two watchmen were called, who found her turning over some linen in a box. On being asked who it belonged to, she replied it was her own. Mr. Kerril, then missing two waistcoats, inquired what she had done with them; on which she called him aside, and told him she had pawned them for two guineas, at Mr. Williams's, in Drury Lane; praying his forgiveness, and assuring him that he might depend upon her redeeming them.

Mr. Kerril acquainted her that he was not so much displeased on account of the waistcoats, but suspected her to be concerned in the murders. He then observed a bundle lying on the floor, and she told him that it was her gown, with some linen tied up in it, which she hoped decency would forbid him opening; and which he accordingly declined.

On a stricter search, he missed several things belonging to himself; and finding others, not his property, he immediately ordered the watchmen to secure her, giving them a strict charge not to let her escape.

When she was gone he requested Mr. Gahagan to assist him in a thorough search; and, looking into the close-stool, they discovered more

linen, and a silver pint tankard, the handle of which was bloody. On calling up the watchmen again, they informed the gentlemen that they had set her at liberty, on her promising to surrender at ten o'clock the next morning. They were ordered immediately to find her again at all events; and, calling to their brother-watchmen at the gate, they luckily discovered she had not left the Temple; and in a few minutes she was brought back to the chambers. Upon being shown the bloody tankard and linen, and asked who they belonged to, she asserted that they had been left her by her mother; that the blood was in consequence of having cut her finger; and, making some other frivolous excuses, she was again ordered into custody of the watchmen till morning.

On searching her in the watch-house, a green silk purse, containing twenty-one counters, was found in her bosom. The next morning, after a full examination, she was committed to Newgate.

On her entering Newgate she saw a room belonging to the debtors, and inquired whether she could not have that room. She was answered by Roger Johnson, a turnkey, that it would cost a guinea; she replied that she could send for a friend that would raise two or three guineas if necessary. She then went into the tap-room, and talked very freely with the felons. Johnson then took her into a room where there was no other prisoner; and, on searching her, he found a bag concealed under her hair, containing twenty moidores, eighteen guineas, five broad pieces, (one of which was of twenty-five shillings value, the others twenty-three shillings each,) a half broad piece, five crowns, and two or three shillings. On being asked by Johnson where she

had got the money, she replied it was some of Mrs. Duncomb's; 'but, Mr. Johnson,' said she, 'I'll make you a present of it if you will but keep it to yourself, and let nobody know any thing of the matter; for the other things against me are nothing but circumstances, and I shall come off well enough; and therefore I only desire you to let me have threepence or sixpence a day till the sessions are over, and then I shall be at liberty to shift for myself.' He accordingly took the money, which he sealed up in the bag, and which was produced in the Court on her trial.

She also informed Johnson that she had engaged three men, for a trifling sum of money, to swear that the tankard belonged to her grandmother; adding, that was all she wanted, for, as to the rest, she could do well enough. She said the names of two of the men were Denny and Smith, the other she had forgotten; but that she feared they were not to be depended on. She then, confiding in Johnson, put a piece of mattress in her hair, to make it appear in bulk as before, and by that means prevent suspicion.

She afterwards told Johnson that she was the contriver of the robbery, but two men and a woman were concerned with her; that she watched on the stairs while they committed the fact; but that she was no way concerned in the murder.

She also said that one William Gibbs had been with her, by whom she had sent ten guineas to the two Alexanders before mentioned, who, she said, were the men that were concerned with her; and she continued to charge them with the guilt even after her condemnation.

Soon after her commitment to Newgate she declared herself a dead

woman; and, it being the general opinion that she would destroy herself, she was ordered to be put into one of the cells, and a proper person appointed as a guard on her.

Being seized with violent fits, a surgeon was sent for, as it was imagined she had taken poison; but he gave it as his opinion that they arose from the consciousness of her guilt, and that the terror of her approaching fate had caused the preternatural hurry of her spirits.

When questions were asked her, she prevaricated so much in her answers, and appeared withal so extremely hardened, that little regard was paid to what she said. She would by no means suffer any of her acquaintances to see her; but the two Alexanders and Mrs. Tracy being taken, she desired to be confronted with them, saying she should die with pleasure now they were secured.

They were accordingly ordered to be conducted into her presence; when she charged them in the boldest manner with the murder, crying out 'Ay, these are the persons that committed the murder.' Then, turning to Mary Tracy, she said, 'You know this to be true; see what you have brought me to; it is through you and the two Alexanders that I am brought to this shame, and death must follow: you all declared you would do no murder; but, to my great surprise, I found the contrary.'

When she was requested one day by some gentlemen in the press-yard to make a full discovery of this bloody transaction, she replied, with great warmth, 'After I am laid in my grave it will be found out.' They then inquired if she was satisfied in her mind, and was resolved not to make any farther confession: she answered, 'that, as she was not concerned in the mur-

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der, she hoped God would accept her life as an atonement for her manifold sins.'

When brought to her trial the strongest circumstantial proof appeared against her, from the evidence of Mr. Kerril, Mr. Gahagan, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Oliphant, with the two watchmen, and many other witnesses; so that not a person in the whole Court entertained a doubt of her guilt. When called on for her defence she spoke to the following purport:—

That she freely acknowledged her crimes were deserving of death, but that she was entirely innocent of the murder; that the robbery was contrived by Mary Tracy and herself; that they met at Mr. Kerril's chambers on the Sunday before it was committed, he being from home when the plundering Mrs. Duncomb was proposed. That she told Tracy she could not do it by herself. 'No!' says Tracy, 'there are the two Alexanders will help us.' That the next day she had seventeen pounds sent her from the country, which she deposited in Mr. Kerril's drawers. That they all met the Friday following in Cheapside, when it was agreed to put their scheme into execution on the following night.

That the next evening, between seven and eight, she went to see Elizabeth Harrison, who was ill; with whom she staid a short time, and then went to meet Tracy and the two Alexanders, who proposed going about the robbery immediately; to which she objected, as being too soon. Mary Tracy persisting, she told her she would go and see; and accordingly went up stairs, and they followed her; that she met the maid on the stairs, with a blue mug, going for milk to make a sack-posset, who inquired who those people were that followed.

She told her they were going to Mr. Knight's. When gone, she said to Tracy, 'Now do you and Tom Alexander go down; I know the door is left ajar, because the old maid is ill, and can't get up to let the young maid in when she comes back.' That James Alexander then went in, and hid himself under the bed; that she, going down again, met the maid coming up, who inquired if she had spoken to Mrs. Betty; she answered 'No,' and, going down, spoke with Tracy and Alexander: then went to her master's chambers, where, staying about a quarter of an hour, she went back, and found Tom Alexander and Tracy sitting on Mrs. Duncomb's stairs. At twelve o'clock they heard Mr. Knight come in and shut his door. It being a very stormy night, there was nobody stirring except the watchmen when they cried the hour.

About two another gentleman came to light his candle with the watchman, upon which she removed farther up stairs. Soon after she heard Mrs. Duncomb's door open; and James Alexander came out, and said 'Now is the time.' Tracy and Tom Alexander then went in, she waiting upon the stairs to watch. Between four and five they returned; one of them called to her softly, 'Hip! how shall I shut the door?' She replied, 'It is a spring lock; pull it to, and it will be fast,' which they accordingly did.

That they proposed sharing the money upon the stairs, to which she objected; they then went under the arch by Fig-tree Court; and she inquired how much they had got; when they informed her that in the maid's purse they found fifty guineas and some silver; in the drawers about one hundred pounds, exclusive of the tankard, money in the box, and other valuable things;

amounting in the whole to about three hundred pounds.

That they informed her they had gagged the old lady and her maids. That she received the tankard, a sum of money, and some linen, for her share; they reserving a silver spoon, ring, and the remainder of the money, to themselves. That they next advised her to be very cautious to conceal the money underground, and not appear to possess any; and that they appointed a meeting at Greenwich, which was afterwards forgotten.*

Her defence being ended, the jury withdrew for about a quarter of an hour, when they returned with a verdict of guilty.

While under sentence of death she seemed to feel all the horrors of guilt, and would frequently fall into violent fits, which appeared to be attended with agonies expressive of the utmost perturbation of mind. In one of these fits, the keeper inquiring what was the matter, she replied that she was affected by being informed that she was to be executed amongst all her acquaintance in Fleet Street, the thoughts of which were insupportable. In answer to this the keeper told her 'that could not be the truth; as he made her acquainted with the place where she was to die, on the death-warrant's coming down; therefore it was not probable that it could have such an effect on her at this time.' He then, by the most forcible arguments, recommended her to make a full confession of her guilt, as the only means of quieting her conscience; but to this advice she made no reply.

About ten o'clock the same evening she called to a fellow-prisoner in the opposite cell, who was to die

the next day; exhorting him to take comfort, and offering for him her prayers, which he begged her to do, and which she did for a considerable time. After which, calling to him again, she said, 'Your time is short as well as mine, and I wish I was to go with you: as to the ignominy of your fate, let not that trouble you; none but the vulgar will reflect either on your friends or relations: good parents may have unhappy children, and pious children may have unhappy parents; neither are answerable for the other. As to the suddenness of our death, consider we have had time to prepare for it; whereas many die so suddenly that they have not time to call for mercy.'

The bellman coming at the usual time, he exhorted her to attend to what he said, which she accordingly did; and then, throwing him a shilling, bade him call for a pint of wine.

Notwithstanding this unhappy woman attended prayers very constantly during the time of her being in Newgate, yet there is great reason to imagine, from many circumstances, that she had been brought up in the Roman Catholic religion; which suspicion is confirmed by a letter she received from a priest of that persuasion a few days before she suffered: though it is certain, from the last actions of her life, that she adhered to no principles of religion whatever.

Her behaviour was far from sincere, and she generally contradicted herself in whatever questions were asked her; so that, instead of preparing for that awful state on which she was then entering, she daily added to her other crimes the sin of hypocrisy.

* This story, although no grounds were afforded by it for the positive accusation of the other parties, it being wholly unsupported, yet could not fail to leave a stain upon their characters which no length of time would obliterate.

On the morning of execution, March 7, 1733, she appeared more composed than she had been for some time past, and seemed to join in prayers with the Ordinary, and another gentleman who attended, with much sincerity.

When in the cart, she wrung her hands, and wept most bitterly. The accumulated guilt of the very enormous crimes she had committed seemed now to press heavily on her, and she appeared almost ready to sink under a load of affliction.

At the place of execution, near Fetter Lane, she behaved with the utmost devoutness and resignation to the Divine will; but when the Ordinary, in his prayers, recommended her soul to God, she fainted, and with much difficulty recovered her senses. On the cart's driving off, she turned towards the Temple, crying out, 'Oh! my master! my master! I wish I could see him;' and then, casting her eyes towards Heaven, called upon Christ to receive her soul.

WILLIAM GORDON, EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

This malefactor was brought up to the business of a butcher; but, for twenty years previous to his execution, had been a reputed highwayman. He was tried at Chelmsford for a desperate attack and robbery in Epping Forest, but escaped conviction on proving an *alibi*.* He brought a number of

evidences to swear that he was in Ireland when this robbery was committed.

He was, however, afterwards convicted, at the Old Bailey, of a highway robbery, between Knightsbridge and Hyde Park Corner, on Mr. Peters, under-treasurer of the Temple, whom he robbed of his

* This mode of defence often succeeds from the facility with which the accused can suborn men, hardened like themselves in scenes of iniquity, to swear that the prisoner, at the time when the robbery had been stated to have been committed, was elsewhere. Too frequently, however, have prosecutors erred in the identity of the persons by whom they had been plundered; in which case nothing short of a well-substantiated *alibi* can impeach their evidence.

The writer of this article, excited by the case of two unfortunate young men, paid his half-crown (the necessity for which is surely most disgraceful) for a seat in the gallery of the Old Bailey, in order to witness their trial, and to view the effects of an *alibi*, which he had heard would be set up against the evidence of a gentleman of title, and filling a high situation in the law.

The prosecutor in this case was Sir Thomas Davenport; and the accused, — Smith, who kept the Assembly Rooms, at Kentish Town, near London, at the time of his apprehension; and — Brown, the son of a widow, the landlady of a reputable public house in Chapel Street, Bedford Row.

In the year 1785, these innocent young men were brought to the bar of that awful tribunal, in heavy irons, charged with robbing on the highway Sir Thomas and Lady Davenport. Sir Thomas, his head covered with his legal wig, on the top of which was the black patch of the king's sergeants of the Court of Common Pleas, swore that on a certain evening, a few weeks before, and about twilight, on the Uxbridge road, the prisoners at the bar, one of them mounted on a brown, and the other on a grey horse, stopped his carriage, in which were his lady and himself, and, putting them in fear of their lives, presented pistols, and demanded his money, which he immediately gave them. Mr. Garrow, then a young counsel, acting in behalf of the prisoners, with much diffidence to the learned serjeant, cross-examined Sir Thomas, observing that men were liable to mistake objects injuring them, especially at the time of a robbery, and wished him to be positive as to the identity of the prisoners. The witness upon this turned round, and, fully viewing them, said, 'As far as one man can swear to another, the prisoners at the bar robbed me as I have described.'

Lady Davenport was next called, and she also swore to the prisoners. Then came

hat, wig, watch, and a gold ring; and, being at the time in a state of intoxication, he was soon apprehended, and had no other plea to offer but that he was drunk.

What rendered this criminal's case sufficiently remarkable to find a place in these volumes was a report circulated that he had cut his throat just before he was carried out to execution, and that a surgeon sewed it up. The cause of this report was as follows:—

Mr. Chovot, a surgeon, having, by frequent experiments on dogs, discovered that opening the wind-pipe would prevent the fatal consequences of being hanged by the neck, communicated it to Gordon, who consented to the experiment

being made on him. Accordingly, pretending to take his last leave of him, the surgeon secretly made an incision in his windpipe; and the effect thus produced on the malefactor was, that when he stopped his mouth, nostrils, and ears, air sufficient to prolong existence issued from the cavity. When he was executed, he was observed to retain life after the others suffering with him were dead. His body, after hanging three quarters of an hour, was cut down, and carried to a house in Edgware Road, where Chovot was in attendance, who immediately opened a vein, which bled freely, and soon after the culprit opened his mouth and groaned. He, however, died; but it was the opi-

forward the coachman and footman of Sir Thomas, who corroborated the evidence of their master and mistress.

Two horses, of the colour described to have been rode by the highwaymen, were brought to the court-yard of the Old Bailey, and sworn to be the same, according to the best of the belief of the witnesses, on which the prisoners were mounted.

This was the evidence on the part of the crown; a case so strong, that every casual spectator supposed it would justly warrant the jury in finding the accused guilty. Being called upon for their defence, they handed up a written statement of their case, the import of which was, that on the evening of the supposed robbery they were at their respective homes. To substantiate this plea, a number of respectable inhabitants of Kentish Town deposed that, on the day of the robbery sworn to, the anniversary dinner of a club, of which they were members, was held at the house of the prisoner, Smith; that he was attending upon them from the time of dinner until midnight, and never out of their club-room a single half-hour at a time. Four or five had already sworn to this, adducing the strongest circumstances to corroborate their testimony; and many more were behind, ready to do the same; when the Court interposed by observing that the *alibi*, respecting Smith, was clearly substantiated. In behalf of Brown, proof was also adduced that he was, on the same evening, serving in his mother's bar-room.

Judge Heath, in summing up the case, observed that, had Sir Thomas remained in Court, he would himself have been convinced that he was mistaken as to the identity of the prisoners. No imputation, however, could be thrown upon the evidence, farther than that all of them were too positive. Sir Thomas, doubtless convinced they were the persons who robbed him, was followed by his lady and their servants; and when we are told that Smith and Brown were intimate friends, being both publicans, and that they had sometimes rode out together on horses similar to those sworn to, and which were actually their own property, there is some reason to excuse the mistake; but it should afford a most serious caution, to prosecutors of men charged with a crime which affects life, in giving their evidence as to the identity of the persons accused. They were of course acquitted.

These young men had borne irreproachable characters, and the miseries entailed upon them in this world from their being thus innocently arraigned is the most melancholy part of the present note. Smith sunk into despondency, and soon died. Brown also, stung with shame, left his aged mother, and went abroad. Had they borne up against their misfortune a very few years, their minds might have been fully set at ease; for the robbers of Sir Thomas Davenport were convicted of another offence, and in the cells of Newgate confessed that they, mounted on the same coloured horses, were the men who *had plundered him!!*

nion of those present at the experiment, that, had he been cut down only five minutes sooner, life would have returned. He suffered along with James Ward and William Keys, for a highway robbery, and with William Norman, for a street robbery, on the 27th of April, 1733.

A month after the execution of Gordon, John Davis, who had frequently robbed in company with him, was brought to execution on the same tree from which Gordon was hanged. Davis feigned himself sick, and entreated the sheriff that

he might not be tied in the cart on his road to Tyburn, which was humanely granted. While the executioner was fastening the rope round the neck of John Jones, another malefactor to be then executed, Davis jumped out of the cart, made his way through the astonished spectators, and ran over two fields; but, being knocked down by a countryman, he was brought back, tied up, and hanged. He confessed having committed various daring robberies along with the notorious old offender, Gordon.



Captain Porteous put to Death by the Edinburgh Mob.

CAPTAIN JOHN PORTEOUS, CONVICTED OF MURDER, AND MURDERED BY THE MOB.

JOHN PORTEOUS was born of indigent parents, near the city of Edinburgh, who bound him apprentice to a tailor, with whom, after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he worked as journeyman.

Porteous was soon noticed by several reputable gentlemen as a young man of good address and fine accomplishments, and one whom they entertained a desire to serve.

It happened at this time that a

gentleman who had been lord provost of Edinburgh, growing tired of his mistress, wished to disengage himself from her in a genteel manner; and, knowing Porteous to be very poor, he proposed his taking her off his hands by making her his wife.

When the proposition was first made to the lady she rejected it with much disdain, thinking it a great degradation to match with a journeyman tailor; but, on the gentleman's promising her a fortune of five hundred pounds, she consented, and they were married accordingly.

Porteous now commenced master, and met with good success for some time; but, being much addicted to company, he neglected his business, by which means he lost many of his customers. His wife, in consequence, was obliged to apply to her old friend the provost, to make some other provision for them.

In Edinburgh there are three companies of men, in number twenty-five each, who are employed to keep the peace, and take up all offenders, whom they keep in custody till examined by a magistrate. An officer is appointed to each of these companies, whom they style Captain, with a salary of eighty pounds a year, and a suit of scarlet uniform, which in that part of the world is reckoned very honorable.

A vacancy happening by the death of one of these captains, the provost immediately appointed his friend Porteous to fill up the place; and the latter, being now advanced to honour, forgot all his former politeness, for which he was so much esteemed when a tradesman, assuming the consequence of a man in authority.

If a riot happened in the city, Porteous was generally made choice of by the magistrates to suppress it,

he being a man of resolute spirit, and unacquainted with fear. On these occasions he would generally exceed the bounds of his commission, and would treat the delinquents with the utmost cruelty, by knocking them down with his musket, and frequently breaking legs and arms.

If sent to quell a disturbance in a house of ill fame, notwithstanding he was a most abandoned debauchee himself, he would take pleasure in exposing the characters of all he found there, thus destroying the peace of many families: he would treat the unhappy prostitutes with the greatest inhumanity, and even drag them to a prison, though many of them had been seduced by himself.

Amongst other instances of cruelty he committed we shall mention the following, because it procured him the universal hatred of the people in that city:—

A vacancy happening in the lectureship of a neighbouring church, two young gentlemen were candidates; and, having each an equal number of votes, the dispute was referred to the presbytery, who declared in favour of Mr. Dawson. The other candidate, Mr. Wotherspoon, appealed to the synod, who reversed the order of the presbytery. As the parishioners were much exasperated, and a tumult being apprehended at the church on the day Mr. Wotherspoon was to preach his first sermon, Porteous was ordered there to keep the peace; but finding, on his arrival, Mr. Dawson had got possession of the pulpit, he went up the steps without the least ceremony, seized him by the collar, and dragged him down like a thief. In consequence of the wounds he received at this time, Mr. Dawson died a few weeks after.

Mr. Wotherspoon coming in at the time of the affray, Mr. Dawson's friends were so enraged, that they immediately fell on him, whom they beat in such a terrible manner, that he also died about the same time as Mr. Dawson.

Thus the lives of two amiable men were sacrificed to the brutality of this inhuman monster. Many men, women, and children, were also much wounded in the affray; yet the wretch himself escaped unpunished, no regular notice being taken of the affair.

Nothing gave more pleasure to this fellow than his being employed to quell riots, on which occasions he never wanted an opportunity of exercising his savage disposition.

The condemnation and death of Porteous happened in the following most extraordinary manner:—

Smuggling was so much practised in Scotland at that time that no laws could restrain it. The smugglers assembled in large bodies, so that the revenue-officers could not attack them without endangering their lives.

The most active person in striving to suppress these unlawful practices was Mr. Stark, collector for the county of Fife, who, being informed that one Andrew Wilson had a large quantity of contraband goods at his house, persuaded a number of men to accompany him; and they seized the goods, and safely lodged them (as they thought) in the custom-house: but Wilson being a man of an enterprising spirit, and conceiving himself injured, went, in company with one Robertson, and some more of his gang, to the custom-house, where, breaking open the doors, they recovered their goods, which they brought off in carts, in defiance of all opposition.

Mr. Stark, hearing that such a

daring insult had been committed, dispatched an account thereof to the barons of the Exchequer, who immediately applying to the Lord Justice Clerk, his lordship issued his warrant to the sheriff of Fife, commanding him to assemble all the people in his jurisdiction to seize the delinquents, and replace the goods.

In consequence of the above order many were apprehended, but all discharged again for want of evidence, except Wilson and Robertson, who were both found guilty, and sentenced to die.

A custom prevailed in Scotland, at that time, of taking the condemned criminals to church every Sunday, under the care of three or four of the city guards. The above two criminals were accordingly taken to one of the churches on the Sunday before they were to suffer; when, just getting within the door, Wilson, though handcuffed, assisted in his companion's escape, by seizing hold of one soldier with his teeth, and keeping the others from turning upon him, while he cried out to Robertson to run.

Robertson accordingly took to his heels, and, the streets being crowded with people going to church, he passed uninterrupted, and got out at one of the city gates just as they were going to shut it, a custom constantly observed during divine service.

The city being now alarmed, Porteous was immediately dispatched in search of him, but all in vain; Robertson, meeting with a friend who knocked off his handcuffs and procured him a horse, got the same evening on board a vessel at Dunbar, which landed him safely in Holland.

We are informed that, in the year 1786, he was living, and kept

a public house with great credit near the bridge at Rotterdam.

On the following Wednesday a temporary gallows was erected in the Grass-market for the execution of Wilson, who was ordered to be conducted there by fifty men, under the command of Porteous.

Porteous, being apprehensive an attempt would be made to rescue the prisoner, represented to the provost the necessity there was for soldiers to be drawn up ready to preserve the peace: on which five companies of the Welsh Fuzileers, commanded by a major, were ordered to be in readiness in the Lawn-market, near the place of execution.

No disturbance arising, the prisoner finished his devotions, ascended the ladder, was turned off, and continued hanging the usual time; at the expiration of which, the hangman going up the ladder to cut him down, a stone struck him on the nose, and caused it to bleed. This stone was immediately followed by many others; at which Porteous was so much exasperated, that he instantly called out to his men, 'Fire, and be damned!' discharging his own piece at the same time, and shooting a young man, who was apprentice to a confectioner, dead on the spot.

Some of the soldiers, more humanely, fired over the heads of the people, but unfortunately killed two or three who were looking out at the windows. Others of the soldiers wantonly fired amongst the feet of the mob, by which many were so disabled as to be afterwards obliged to suffer amputation.

Porteous now endeavoured to draw off his men, as the mob grew exceedingly outrageous, throwing stones, with every thing else they *could lay their hands on, and continuing to press on the soldiers;*

on which Porteous, with two of his men, turned about and fired, killing three more of the people, which amounted to nine in the whole that were left dead on the spot, besides many wounded.

A sergeant was sent by the major of the Welsh Fuzileers to inquire into the cause of the disturbance, but the mob was so outrageous that he could gain no intelligence. Porteous, being assisted by the Fuzileers, at last conducted his men to the guard, when, being sent for by the provost, he passed a long examination, and was committed to prison in order to take his trial for murder.

On the 6th of July, 1736, the trial came on before the lords of justiciary, previously to which Porteous made a judicial confession that the people were killed as mentioned in the indictments; but pleaded self-defence. His counsel then stated the following point of law, to be determined by the judges previously to the jury being charged with the prisoner:—

'Whether a military officer, with soldiers under his command, who, being assaulted by the populace, should fire, or order his men to fire, was not acting consistently with the nature of self-defence, according to the laws of civilized nations?'

The counsel for the prosecution being ordered to plead to the question by the Court, they pronounced, as their opinion, 'That if it was proved that Captain Porteous either fired a gun, or caused one or more to be fired, by which any person or persons was or were killed, and if the said firing happened without orders from a magistrate properly authorized, then it would be murder in the eye of the law.'

Thus the question being decided against him, and the jury empannelled, forty-four witnesses were

examined for and against the prosecution.

The prisoner being now called on for his defence, his counsel insisted that the magistrates had ordered him to support the execution of Wilson, and repel force by force, being apprehensive of a rescue; that powder and ball had been given them for the said purpose, with orders to load their pieces.

They insisted, also, that he only meant to intimidate the people by threats, and actually knocked down one of his own men for presenting his piece; that, finding the men would not obey orders, he drew off as many as he could; that he afterwards heard a firing in the rear, contrary to his directions. That, in order to know who had fired, he would not suffer their pieces to be cleaned till properly inspected; and that he never attempted to escape, though he had the greatest opportunity, and might have effected it with the utmost ease.

They farther insisted, that, admitting some excesses had been committed, it could not amount to murder, as he was in the lawful discharge of his duty; neither could it be supposed to be done with premeditated malice.

In answer to this the counsel for the crown argued, that the trust reposed in the prisoner ceased when the execution was over; that he was then no longer an officer employed for that purpose for which the fire-arms had been loaded; and that the reading of the Riot Act only could justify their firing, in case a rescue had been actually attempted.

The prisoner's counsel replied, that the magistrates, whose duty it was to have read the act, had deserted the soldiery, and taken refuge in a house for their own security; and that it was hard for men

to suffer themselves to be knocked on the head when they had lawful weapons put into their hands to defend themselves.

The charge being delivered to the jury, they retired for a considerable time, when they brought him in guilty, and he received sentence of death.

The king being then at Hanover, and much interest being made to save the prisoner, the queen, by the advice of her council, granted a respite till his majesty's return to England. The respite was only procured one week before his sentence was to be put in execution, of which when the populace were informed, such a scheme of revenge was meditated as is perhaps unprecedented.

On the 7th of September, between nine and ten in the evening, a large body of men entered the city of Edinburgh, and seized the arms belonging to the guard: they then patrolled the streets, crying out, 'All those who dare avenge innocent blood, let them come here.' They then shut the gates, and placed guards at each.

The main body of the mob, all disguised, marched in the mean time to the prison; when, finding some difficulty in breaking open the door with hammers, they immediately set fire to it, taking great care that the flames should not extend beyond their proper bounds. The outer door was hardly consumed before they rushed in, and, ordering the keeper to open the door of the captain's apartment, cried out, 'Where is the villain, Porteous?' He replied, 'Here I am; what do you want with me?' To which they answered, that they meant to hang him in the Grass-market, the place where he had shed so much innocent blood.

His expostulations were all in

vain; they seized him by the legs and arms, and dragged him instantly to the place of execution.

On their arrival they broke open a shop, to find a rope suitable to their purpose, which they immediately fixed round his neck; then, throwing the other end over a dyer's pole, hoisted him up; when he, endeavouring to save himself, fixed his hands between the halter and his neck, which being observed by some of the mob, one of them struck him with an axe, and this obliging him to quit his hold, they soon put an end to his life.

When they were satisfied he was dead, they immediately dispersed to their several habitations, unmolested themselves, and without molesting any one else.

Upon this circumstance being made known, a royal proclamation was issued, offering a large reward for the apprehension of the offenders; and the magistrates of Edinburgh, the scene of the murder, were summoned to answer for their neglect in not quelling the riot, fined, and rendered incapable

of acting again in any judicial capacity. In such a mob as that which seized Porteous, it was difficult to fix upon individuals; and the deceased having rendered himself very obnoxious to the whole people, the affair there rested.

Thus ended the life of Captain John Porteous, a man possessed of qualifications which, had they been properly applied, would have rendered him an ornament to his country, and made him exceedingly useful in a military capacity. His uncommon spirit and invincible courage would have done honour to the greatest hero of antiquity; but, when advanced to power, he became intoxicated with pride, and, instead of being the admiration of, he became despised and hated by, his fellow-citizens. The fate of this unhappy man, it is hoped, will be a caution to those in power not to abuse it; but, by an impartial distribution of justice, to render themselves worthy members of society.

He was put to death at Edinburgh, September 7, 1736.

JOHN COLLINS,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS man of blood lived in a village called Harledown, near Exeter, and was by trade a thatcher. He had kept company with a young woman named Jane Upcot, and who received his addresses, which appeared to be honorably offered. The account of the circumstances which led to the shocking catastrophe we have to relate does not disclose the motive for which the devil worked him up to put to death the object of his love. It was proved that on the 16th of May, 1737, the villain murdered this Jane

Upcot. He afterwards, not gladdened with shedding her blood, actually cut off the head from the body, tore out the heart, and stuck them on a spar-hook, with which he had killed her; and then, fixing the instrument near the decollated body, left the horrid spectacle to the view of the passing traveller!!!

Nature sickens at the recital—let us therefore pass to some less inhuman malefactor: this man deserved a severer death than the gallows.

He was executed at Exeter, in the year 1737.

JOHN TOTTERDALE,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

THIS malefactor, who was a native of North Currey, in Somersetshire, after having been employed in the business of agriculture, came to London about the time that he had arrived at years of maturity, and lived in several families as a servant, maintaining always a reputable character.

Having saved some money in service, he married, and took a public house in the parish of St. John, Westminster, where he perpetrated the murder which cost him his life.

Coming home one evening somewhat intoxicated, he sat down to drink with two women who were in a room with his wife. Mrs. Totterdale quitting the room, her husband soon followed her, with a knife and fork in his hand; shortly after which the cry of murder was heard, when Daniel Brown, who lodged in the house, running up stairs, saw Totterdale stamp on his wife two or three times as she lay on the floor.

On this Brown seized the knife and fork, which Totterdale still held in his hand; and, having got the woman into another room, she locked it, and he persuaded the husband to go down stairs.

Soon afterwards, Totterdale's passion increasing, he procured a key, with which he opened the door: his wife was sitting at the foot of a bed, with the curtains drawn to hide her, so that he did not at first observe where she was; on which Brown waved his hand, intimating that she should retire; but she did not, being either afraid, or unable, to move; and the husband discovering her, a few words passed between them, when he kicked her, caught hold of her feet, dragged her

off the bed, and threw her down about seven of the stairs, where she lay senseless.

Terrified at this sight, Brown ran into his own room, where he staid three or four minutes, and then going down the stairs, found that Totterdale had dragged his wife into a room, and fastened the door; but Brown heard her say, 'For Christ's sake, Johnny! Johnny, for Christ's sake, don't kill me!' Mr. Brown then went out, but found the woman dead when he returned at the end of about an hour and a half.

The husband was now taken into custody; and the body of the deceased being examined by a surgeon, he found that nine of her ribs were broken, and that her right arm was stabbed in the joint, to the depth of four inches.

Totterdale, being committed to the Gatehouse, was visited by his wife's sister, who said to him, 'O John! John! how could you be so barbarous as to murder your poor wife?' In answer to which he said, 'The devil overpowered me; I was pushed on by the devil both to begin and finish the deed: I cannot recall or undo what I have done; but I wish I could bring back my poor, unhappy, unprepared wife from the grave again.'

Some of his acquaintance asking him why he did not attempt to make his escape after he had committed the murder, he replied that he had an intention of so doing; but, as he was going out of the room, he imagined he heard a voice saying, 'John, John, stay—What have you done? You cannot go off:' which supposed words deprived him of all possibility of effecting his escape.

Being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, the evidence against

him was so clear that the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty, in consequence of which he was sentenced to die.

After conviction he declared that he had no fear of the disgraceful death that awaited him, and that he would willingly suffer any degree of torture, as an atonement for the crime of which he had been guilty.

On being told that his name was included in the warrant for execution, he replied, 'The Lord's will be done! I am ready to die; I am willing to die; only I beg of God that I may not (though I deserve it) die an eternal death: and, though I am cut off from this world for my heinous offences, yet I hope it is not impossible that I should live for ever in a better state. I have been guilty of the unnatural murder of my poor wife: the Lord be more merciful to me than I was to her, or else I perish!' He added, that

he hoped those who had received injuries from him would forgive him, as he freely forgave those by whom he had been injured.

Totterdale found a generous friend in Mr. Paul, a brewer, who had served him with beer while in trade; and who, while in prison, supplied him with the necessaries of life. He likewise provided for his two children, and took care to see the unhappy man buried by the side of his wife, agreeably to an earnest request he made in a letter written the day before his execution.

The behaviour of this wretched man after conviction, and at the place of his death, was decent, devout, and resigned, in a high degree. He appeared to be a sincere penitent; and admonished others not to indulge that violence of passion which had ended in his destruction.

He was executed at Tyburn, Oct. 5, 1737.

THOMAS CARR AND ELIZABETH ADAMS,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

THOMAS CARR, when he committed the robbery for which he suffered, was an attorney-at-law, of eminence, in the Temple; and Elizabeth Adams a woman with whom he cohabited. He had been many years vestry-clerk of the parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden—a very respectable office.

On the 15th of October, 1737, they were indicted at the Old Bailey for robbing William Quarrington of ninety-three guineas and a diamond ring, at the Angel and Crown tavern, near Temple Bar; upon which they were found guilty, and sentence of death passed on them. Carr endeavoured to obtain the royal mercy; but the Privy Council replied, 'That a flagrant breach of the law was greatly aggravated in being committed by a man *professing the law.*'

On the 18th of January, 1738, thirteen miserable beings were carried from Newgate to Tyburn, there to suffer death for different offences; and among them were Carr and Adams, each in a mourning-coach. They both received the sacrament on the Sunday preceding; and then, and at the place of execution, denied the fact for which they suffered. They were both remarkably composed, for people in their dreadful situation; and, just as the cart began to draw away, they kissed each other, joined hands, and thus were launched into eternity.

The fate of Carr considerably engaged the public attention, and many different opinions were formed on the extent of his guilt. In the times in which he suffered it was a fashion to court the muse upon the

exit of a remarkable or notorious character; and upon this event we found the following lines, which may amuse our readers, and have, we believe, been seldom published since the year in which he suffered:

On seeing Mr. Carr, the Attorney, take Coach for Tyburn.

Struck with surprise I view'd the daring wight

Intrepidly prepare for partial fight
With cloudy greatness like some noble slave
He look'd disdain on crowds that term'd him knave

While in my breast indignant passion rose
In sounds like these the short-liv'd madness glows

How equally unjust and hard the fate
(From murder free and crimes against the state)

To die for theft thou knew'st not to conceal
When thy fraternity *per legem* steal
And did justice impartial decide (*sans reproaches*)

They all by *St. Andrew* would ride in their coaches

Clifford's Inn July 24 1738

N. B. ' *We lawyers ne'er make stops* '



Price strangling his Wife on Hounslow Heath.

GEORGE PRICE,

CONVICTED OF MURDER, BUT WHO DIED IN NEWGATE.

This malefactor was a native of the Hay, in Brecknockshire, where he lived as servant to a widow-lady, who was so extremely partial to him that the neighbours circulated reports to their mutual prejudice. Having lived in this station seven years, he repaired to London, where he got places in two respect-

able families, and then returned to his former service in Wales; when his mistress treated him with such distinction, that the country people became even more severe in their censures than before.

On his quitting this lady a second time, she made him a present of a valuable watch, which he brought

to London, and then engaged in the service of — Brown, esq. of Golden Square, who used to make frequent excursions to Hampstead, attended by his servant.

Price now became acquainted with Mary Chambers, servant in a public house at Hampstead, whom he married at the expiration of a fortnight from his first paying his addresses to her; but Mr. Brown, disapproving of the match, dismissed Price from his service.

Soon after this he took his wife into Brecknockshire, and imposed her on his relations as the daughter of a military officer, who would become entitled to a large fortune. He was treated in the most friendly manner by his relations; and the young couple returning to London, the wife went to lodge at Hampstead, while Price engaged in the service of a gentleman in New Broad Street.

Mrs. Price, being delivered of twins, desired her husband to buy some medicines to make the children sleep, which he procured; and the children dying soon afterwards, a report was circulated that he had poisoned them; but this circumstance he denied to the last moment of his life.

In a short time Price's master removed into Kent, whither he attended him; and, in the interim, his wife was again brought to bed, a circumstance that greatly chagrined him, as he had now made other connexions, and was grown weary of the support of his own family. Mrs. Price having afterwards become a third time pregnant, he told her he could not support any more children, and recommended her to take medicines to procure abortion; which was accordingly done, and the horrid intention was answered.

Price now paid his addresses to

a widow in Kent; and, considering his wife as an obstacle between him and his wishes, he formed the infernal resolution of murdering her.

Having been bruised by a fall from his horse, and his master having business in London, he was left behind, to take his passage in a Margate hoy as soon as his health would permit; and on his arrival at Billingsgate his wife was waiting to receive him, in the hope of obtaining some money towards her present support.

Price no sooner beheld her than he began to devise the plan of the intended murder; on which he told her that he had procured the place of a nursery-maid for her in the neighbourhood of Putney, and that he would attend her thither that very day. He then directed her to clean herself, and meet him at the Woolpack, in Monkwell Street.

In her way to her lodgings she called at the house of her husband's master, where the servants advised her not to trust herself in her husband's company; but she said she had no fear of him, as he had treated her with unusual kindness. Accordingly she went home and dressed herself (having borrowed some clothes of her landlady), and met her husband, who put her in a chaise, and drove her out of town towards Hounslow.

As they were riding along, she begged he would stop while she bought some snuff, which he, in a laughing manner, refused to do, saying she would never want any again. When he came on Hounslow Heath, it being near ten o'clock at night, he suddenly stopped the chaise, and threw the lash of the whip round his wife's neck; but drawing it too hastily, he made a violent mark on her chin: immediately finding his mistake, he placed it lower; on which the ex-

claimed, 'My dear! my dear! for God's sake—if this is your love, I will never trust you more!'

Immediately on her pronouncing these words, which were her last, he pulled the ends of the whip with great force; but, the violence of his passion abating, he let go before she was quite dead: yet, resolving to accomplish the horrid deed, he once more put the thong of the whip about her neck, and pulled it with such violence that it broke; but not till the poor woman was dead.

Having stripped the body, he left it almost under a gibbet, where some malefactors hung in chains, having first disfigured it to such a degree that he presumed it could not be known. He brought the clothes to London, some of which he cut in pieces, and dropped in different streets; but, knowing that the others were borrowed of the landlady, he sent them to her; a circumstance that materially conduced to his conviction.

He reached London about one o'clock in the morning; and, being interrogated why he came at such an unreasonable hour, he said that the Margate hoy had been detained in the river by contrary winds.

On the following day the servants, and other people, made so many inquiries respecting his wife, that, terrified at the idea of being taken into custody, he immediately fled to Portsmouth, with a view of entering on board a ship; but no vessel was then ready to sail.

While he was drinking at an ale-house in Portsmouth, he heard the bellman crying him as a murderer, with such an exact description of him, that he was apprehensive of being seized; and, observing a window which opened to the water, he jumped out and swam for his life.

Having gained the shore, he travelled all night till he reached a

farm-house, where he inquired for employment. The farmer's wife said he did not appear as if he had been used to country work; but he might stay till her husband's arrival.

The farmer regarded him with great attention, and said he wanted a ploughman, but that he was certain he would not answer his purpose, as he had the appearance of a person who had absconded for debt, or possibly there might be some criminal prosecution against him.

Price expressed his readiness to do any thing for an honest subsistence; but the farmer refused to employ him, though he said he would give him a supper and a lodging. But, when bed-time came, the farmer's men refused to sleep with Price, in the fear of his robbing them of their clothes; in consequence of which he was obliged to lie on some straw in the barn.

On the following day he crossed the country towards Oxford, where he endeavoured to get into service, and would have been engaged by a physician; but, happening to read a newspaper in which he was advertised, he immediately decamped from Oxford, and travelled into Wales.

Having stopped at a village a few miles from Hay, at the house of a shoemaker to whom his brother was apprenticed, the latter obtained permission to accompany George home; and, while they were on their walk, the malefactor recounted the particulars of the murder which had obliged him to seek his safety in flight.

The brother commiserated his condition; and, leaving him at a small distance from their father's house, went in, and found the old gentleman reading an advertisement describing the murderer. The

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advised his wife to take medicines to procure abortion; and then actually murdered her who could be base enough to follow such pernicious advice: thus she, as is but too commonly the case in instances of departure from the laws of God, fell a sacrifice to the passions of her seducer.

What must have been the thoughts of this unhappy wretch, when, after having murdered his wife, he deposited her body almost under the gibbet on Hounslow Heath! What the terrors of his conscience when he heard his person minutely described by the bellman at Portsmouth! What must have been his

feelings when he discovered his guilt to his brother, and when he met the eye of his offended parent! How agonized must his mind have been when he desired his brother to buy a lancet, that he might add suicide to murder! In a word, what terrors must this most unhappy wretch have felt in his peregrinations through the country, from his commission of the crime to his surrender to justice, and thence to the moment of his exit!

If ever any man could, well might he say, in the words of Scripture, 'A wounded spirit who can bear?'

WILLIAM UDALL,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THE father of this reprobate was an eminent distiller in Clerkenwell, London. He gave his son a good education, and bound him apprentice to a watchmaker in Leadenhall Street, where he was idle, and soon learnt from some abandoned journeymen the trick of scraping gold from the inside of watch-cases, which he sold, and squandered away his ill-gotten pelf. His master died before he was detected, and he was turned over to another, whom he offended before he had served a quarter of a year. He then went to live with one Mr. Stanbridge, of Clerkenwell, who engaged to procure him his freedom at the expiration of the term for which he was originally apprenticed.

He had not long been in the service of Stanbridge before he connected himself with a number of

young pickpockets, with whom he used to go out of an evening, and steal watches, swords, hats, and any thing they could lay their hands on, which they deposited with one Williams, in Hanging-sword Alley, Fleet Street, who disposed of the effects, and shared the booty with the young thieves.

Udall's father was apprized of his living in an irregular manner, but had no idea that he had proceeded to such lengths as to become a robber. However, to reclaim him from his evil courses, he took a house for him, and put him into business in a very reputable way.

One of Udall's companions was a youth named Raby, who, having served his time to a barber, his friends likewise put him into business; and for some months the young men appeared to attend the duties

wicked persons. But after, it seems, he had it prepared, and against the day of his trial had made a wick of it (for so is the word; that is, so fitted that like a candle it might be fired), which, as soon as ever he was condemned, he lighted, having provided himself a tinder-box, and steel to strike fire. And whosoever should know the ingredients of a wick, or candle, and the manner of the composition, will easily be persuaded of the *lency and venomous effect of it.*"

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of their respective professions : they had not, however, quitted their old connexions, being used to go almost every night to Drury Lane to a house of ill fame, which was kept by a woman named Bird.

In this place they associated with several young fellows of abandoned character, who instructed them in the arts of gaming ; so that in a short time Udall quitted his business, though he had a great prospect of success in trade. Being in possession of a number of watches belonging to his customers, he sold them to a Jew, and appropriated the produce to the purposes of his own extravagance.

Having dissipated all his money, his associates hinted to him that, as he was acquainted with a number of watchmakers, he might easily take up work in the name of his late master, and sell the articles for his own emolument. He followed this pernicious advice, and was for some time a gainer by the project.

He had likewise another artifice, by which he frequently obtained money. He would sell watches which he declared to be worth five or six guineas each, but take only half the sum till the purchasers were convinced of their goodness ; and as he knew that these watches would not go well, they were always returned to be rectified ; on which he sold them to other people, and the original purchasers were defrauded.

At length Udall and Raby agreed to commence highwaymen ; and, in consequence thereof, committed a number of robberies in and near Epping Forest, Finchley Common, &c. one of which was attended with a circumstance of unusual barbarity.

These associates in wickedness, having stopped the St. Albans coach, robbed the passengers of about five pounds, and immediately

put spurs to their horses ; but they had not rode far before Udall said that a lady in the coach had a remarkably fine ring on her finger. On this Raby rode back ; and the lady being unwilling to part with the ring, the remorseless villain drew a knife, and cut off her finger, for the sake of the paltry prize.

This horrid action being perpetrated, they rode to Hampstead ; and, having robbed some other people the same evening, hastened to Drury Lane, where they divided the spoil.

The companions in vice had another scheme, which was frequently successful. When the company was coming out of the theatres, one of them would accost a lady or gentleman, pretending to know the party, and in the interim the other seldom failed of making prize of a watch.

It was a common practice with Udall to go to the shops of goldsmiths, and, under pretence of buying gold rings, he would steal them, and leave brass rings in the show-glass ; and he was so doctorous in this kind of robbery that he was scarce ever detected.

On one occasion Udall and two of his accomplices, named Baker and Wager, stopped a coach on the road to Uxbridge. A guard being behind the coach, with a blunderbuss, Baker threatened him with instant death if he did not throw it away, and the man obeyed. Wager and Udall guarded the coachman and postilion, while Baker robbed the company ; but this was no sooner done than the guard produced a horse-pistol, with which he fired at Udall, and brought him to the ground ; on which Baker shot the guard, so that he instantly expired.

Udall was conveyed to a farmhouse near Uxbridge by his accomplices, and lay there six weeks be-

fore he recovered; but soon afterwards they killed the person who guarded another coach, as it was going over Turnham Green.

In a short time after the commission of this atrocious crime Udall knocked down a young woman in Fenchurch Street, whom he robbed of a cloak, a handkerchief, and her pocket, which contained only a few halfpence.

Udall's father, distressed at his son's proceedings, and wishing to save him from an ignominious fate, procured him to be arrested and lodged in the Compter, hoping that, when his companions were disposed of by the operation of the law, he might be out of future danger; but it happened that Ramsey, one of his old associates, was confined in the same prison at the time, which coming to the knowledge of Udall's father, he got his son released.

Ramsey being enlarged soon afterwards, they met at an alchouse; and, having resolved to go on the highway, they went to a livery-stable at London Wall, where they hired horses, and, going on the Stratford road, procured a considerable booty in money and watches from the passengers in several coaches.

Udall kept company with a woman named Margaret Young, who had likewise lived with several other men. Being one day distressed for cash, he robbed this woman of five gold rings; in consequence of which she had him apprehended by a judge's warrant, and he was lodged in the house of the tipstaff, Mrs. Young, who told the rings were the property of another man with whom she was acquainted.

Udall's confinement the owner of the rings offered him the promise if he would enter into a bond to appear again with Mrs. Young, he re-

jected this offer, an order was made for his commitment to the King's Bench; but he and another prisoner effected their escape from the house of the tipstaff by forcing the keys from the maid-servant.

Not long after this adventure our hero and some of his associates robbed a physician in the Strand, for which they were all of them apprehended; but Udall, becoming an evidence against his accomplices, escaped the fate which he had so frequently merited.

Soon after Udall had thus obtained his liberty he casually met with Margaret Young, in company with the presumptive owner of the rings above mentioned, who threatened to arrest Udall for the value of them unless he would give him a note for four pounds. Udall complying with this demand, and being unable to pay the note when it became due, was arrested; and, standing trial, was cast, and ordered to discharge both debt and costs.

Udall's relations, who had been put to great expense on his account, refused to pay his debt, so that he became a prisoner in the Marshalsea; but some of his acquaintance having furnished him with saws and ropes, he made his escape, in company with another prisoner, named Man; and while they were escaping a neighbour would have stopped them, but that they threatened his life with the most dreadful imprecations.

After this adventure Udall went to see his relations, and promised them that he would go to Holland if they would only supply him with money to pay for his passage. This they readily did, and promised to remit him a sum once a year towards his support, on the condition of his continuing abroad; but he had no sooner possessed himself of the present cash than he went to a house

of ill fame in Charterhouse Lane, where he spent the whole of the money.

Being thus impoverished, he and his fellow-reprobate, Man, agreed to go on the highway; and the woman of the house having furnished them with pistols, they rode beyond Edmonton, where they robbed four ladies in a coach; and, returning to London, spent their ill-gotten gains in Charterhouse Lane.

On the following day they took three gold watches, five pounds, and some silver, from the passengers in a waggon on the Western road, near Brentford; and soon afterwards they robbed two gentlemen near Epping Forest; on their return from which expedition Udall fell from his horse, and was so bruised as to be obliged to keep his bed for several days.

When his health was somewhat re-established, and his money expended, they went again on the road; and, having supped at the Castle, at Holloway, they robbed three gentlemen near Islington, and spent their money at their old place of resort in Charterhouse Lane.

About this time information was given to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison of the place of their resort, on which he sent a number of men to take them into custody; but, just as they were entering at the door, our adventurers, having notice of their approach, escaped over the roof of the house.

The runners of the prison, being disappointed in getting possession of the men, took into custody the mistress of the house and her servant; but these were soon afterwards dismissed, on their engaging to assist in the apprehension of the prison-breakers.

Some days afterwards, when Man and Udall were strolling in the neighbourhood of Islington, in

search of prey, they met their old landlady in company with two of the runners of the Marshalsea; on which the robbers produced pistols, and vowed vengeance against the first person who should molest them. The woman said that they had nothing to fear, for there was no intention of injuring them, and persuaded them to walk in company as far as Pancras, to drink at a public house.

Having continued drinking some time, one of the men spoke privately to Udall, and made him the offer of his liberty if he would assist in apprehending his companion, who had been confined for a large debt.

Udall said he was unwilling that Man should be taken while in his company, lest he should be deemed treacherous to his trust; but he would leave him as soon as they reached London, when the others might take him into custody. This, however, was only a trick of Udall's; for when he got into the fields he privately communicated what had passed to Man, and both of them, turning round at the same instant, presented pistols, and threatened immediate destruction to the other parties unless they retired; which they thought it prudent to do for their own security.

The accomplices now committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of Epping Forest; and Udall, having one night left his horse at a public house on the forest, went to Man's lodgings in a state of absolute intoxication. While he was in this situation Man went out, and locked the door, on the pretence of care that the men from the Marshalsea should not apprehend his companion: but he immediately delivered himself into custody, and gave the key to the runners, who, entering the house, seized Udall in

bed, and conveyed them both to their former apartments.

Man now seriously reflected on his situation ; and, being apprehensive that he might be seen by some person who would charge him with a capital offence, he begged to be conducted to a magistrate, before whom he was admitted an evidence against his companion, on a charge of his having committed several robberies on the highway.

Hereupon Udall was committed to Newgate, and, being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was convicted, principally on the evidence of Man, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he seemed at once to give up all hopes of life ; conscious that his offences were so numerous and so aggravated, that he had no reason to expect an extension of the royal mercy in his favour.

He acknowledged that, from the time when he was first apprenticed, he had been a total stranger to common honesty ; and that his father had paid and expended above four

hundred pounds in fruitless endeavours to save him from ruin.

William Udall was executed at Tyburn, on the 14th of March, 1738, in the twenty-second year of his age.

The keeping of bad company appears to have been one great cause of Udall's destruction, as it has been that of thousands besides. There is not a doctrine in the whole system of religion or morality more worthy of being impressed on the minds of youth than that which inculcates the necessity of keeping good company. The mind is as necessarily influenced by the ideas of those with whom we associate as a stream of fair water is discoloured by that of a fouler stream running into it.

Hence, then, let young people learn, that on the choice of their company much of their present and future happiness may depend ; and that one day spent in the practice of religion and virtue will afford more solid satisfaction than an age of vice.

JOHN TOON AND EDWARD BLASTOCK,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THE parents of John Toon were respectable inhabitants of Shore-ditch, who, having bestowed on him a liberal education, apprenticed him to a capital ironmonger, who had married his sister ; but, not being happy in this situation, his father sent him to sea at the expiration of three years.

After two voyages to Barbadoes, he grew tired of the life of a seaman, which he quitted to live with his uncle, who was a carman, and in whose service he behaved so unexceptionably, that, on the death of the uncle, which happened soon afterwards, he took possession of four hundred pounds, which his re-

lation had bequeathed him as the reward of his good conduct.

Soon after becoming possessed of this money he married the sister of Edward Blastock, and began to live in a most extravagant manner. When he had dissipated half his little fortune, Blastock proposed that they should go into Yorkshire, and embark in public business.

This proposal being accepted, they took an inn at Sheffield, the place of Blastock's birth ; but, both the landlords being better calculated to spend than to get money, Toon soon found his circumstances embarrassed.

Thus situated, he reflected on

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Blastock for advising him to take the inn; and the other recriminated by recounting the faults of Toon. In consequence of this dissension Blastock brought his wife to London, whither Toon and his wife soon followed, after selling off their effects.

Toon, who was now totally reduced, met his own elder brother one day in Cheapside. This brother, who was a dyer in Shoreditch, took little notice of the other; but, as Toon imagined he was going out for the day, he went to his house, and met with his wife, who entreated him to stay dinner: to this he consented, and in the mean time went to see the men at work, among whom finding one of genteel appearance, whom he learnt was his brother's book-keeper, he became extremely enraged that his brother should employ a stranger in this station in preference to himself, at a time that he was in circumstances of distress.

In this agitation of mind he returned into the house; and, whilst his sister-in-law was gone into another room, he stole a small quantity of silver plate, and decamped: and, having soon spent the produce of this theft, he determined on the dangerous and fatal resource of the highway.

His first expedition was to Epping Forest, where he waited a long time in expectation of a booty; and at length observing a coach come from Lord Castlemain's seat, he used the most dreadful imprecations to compel the coachman to stop, and robbed two ladies of nearly three pounds, with a girdle-buckle and an etwee-case.

He now imagined that he had got a valuable prize: but he at length pawned the buckle and etwee for twelve shillings, finding that the latter was base metal, though he

had mistaken it for gold, and that the former was set with crystal stones, instead of diamonds, as they had appeared to his eye.

He soon spent his ill-gotten treasure, and, going again on the highway, stopped and robbed several persons, among whom was a gentleman named Carrier, who earnestly exhorted him to decline his present course of life, not only from the immorality but the danger of it. The robber thanked the gentleman for his advice; but said that he had no occasion for it, as he was sufficiently apprized of his danger, but he must have his money on peril of instant death; and, having robbed him of three guineas, he decamped with the utmost expedition.

One of his next robberies was on Epping Forest, where he disposed a gentleman of his money, and a gold watch, which he left in the hands of a receiver of stolen goods, to dispose of to the best advantage: but the watch being of value, and in high estimation with the owner, he advertised it, with a reward of eight guineas; on which the receiver delivered it, and took the money, but gave Toon only seven of them, pretending that it was all he could obtain.

Toon, not having read the advertisement, was ignorant of the trick that had been put upon him; but, being some days afterwards upon Epping Forest, and having in vain waited some time for a booty, he went to the Green Man, by Lord Castlemain's house, where he heard one of his lordship's footmen recounting the particulars of the robbery, and saying that the watch had been recovered on giving eight guineas for it.

This circumstance determined Toon never to lodge any of his future booties in the same hands. But it will now be proper to say

something of the other malefactor, whose story makes a part of this narrative.

Edward Blastock was a native of Sheffield, in Yorkshire, and was apprenticed in London to a peruke-maker in the Temple; and his master dying when he had served about five years, his mistress declined trade, and gave the young fellow his indentures, on the representation of the gentlemen of the law that they wished him, rather than any other, to succeed her late husband.

But the rent of the house being high, Blastock was afraid to enter on business so early in life, he being at that time only eighteen years of age: on which he took two rooms in Whitefriars, where he began to practise in his calling, and met with great success.

Coming by this means into the possession of money before he knew the value of it, he attached himself to the fashionable pleasures of the town, by which he soon incurred more debts than he could discharge; and, consequently, being obliged to decline business, he had recourse to the wretched life of a strolling player, refusing to accept of a good situation which was offered him by a gentleman of the Temple.

Soon afterwards Blastock married, had several children, and, being reduced to great distress, went into Yorkshire with Toon, as we have already mentioned.

On his return from Yorkshire he again engaged himself as a strolling player, and, after some time, casually meeting with Toon, the latter represented the advantages to be made by the life of a highwayman, and wished him to embark in that business; which he declined on the double score of its danger and immorality.

Not long after this refusal Blastock was seized with an indisposi-

tion which threatened his life, and confined him so long that his wife was obliged to pawn almost all her effects for his support; and, being visited by Toon during his illness, the latter again wished him to commence highwayman.

Blastock had no sooner recovered his health, than, depressed by want, he yielded to the dangerous solicitation, and went with his accomplice to Epping Forest, where they stopped the chariot of a gentleman, whom they robbed of a few shillings and a pocket-piece, and then came to London.

On the following day they went again towards the forest; but, in crossing Hackney Marsh, Toon's horse sunk in a slough, where he continued so long a time that they found it impossible to achieve any profitable adventure that night.

Thus disappointed, they returned to London, and on the 27th of February following set out on another expedition, which proved to be their last of the kind. While Toon was loading his pistols, he was prepossessed with the idea that his fate was speedily approaching; nevertheless, he resolved to run every hazard: on which they rode as far as Muswell Hill, where they stopped a gentleman named Seabroke, and demanded his money.

The gentleman gave them eighteen shillings, saying it was all he had, and adding, 'God bless you, gentlemen, you are welcome to it.' Toon then demanded his watch, which Mr. Seabroke delivered, expressing himself again in the same words.

This robbery being committed, they galloped hard towards Highgate; and their horses being almost tired, Blastock, stung with the sense of his guilt, frequently looked behind him, in apprehension that he was pursued; and so strong was the

terror of conscience, 'which makes oowards of us all,' that both of them agreed to quit their horses, and make their escape.

They now ran through a farm-yard, and, taking the back road which leads from Hlighgate to Hampstead, got to London on foot; and Blastock now declared his determination never to embark in such another project, while he congratulated himself on his narrow escape.

They now took a solemn oath that, if either of them should be apprehended, neither would impeach the other; and the watch obtained in the last robbery being sold for two guineas, Blastock received his share, and went to join a company of strolling players at Chatham.

The stolen watch being advertised, the purchaser carried it to Mr. Seabroke, telling him that he knew Toon, and would assist in taking him into custody; the consequence of which was, that the offender was lodged in Newgate on the same day.

Toon kept his oath in declining to give any information against his accomplice: but Blastock, having agreed to go with the players to a greater distance from London than Chatham, returned to town to bid his wife and children adieu.

When he arrived, which was about midnight, his wife and sister were in bed; and the former having opened the door, he was informed that Toon was in custody, and advised to seek his safety by an immediate flight.

This advice, however, he did not take; and, in the morning, Toon's wife desired he would stay while she visited her husband, declaring that she would not mention his having returned to London.

On her return from this visit she wept much, and expressed her wishes for the approach of night,

that he might retire in safety. In the evening, while supper was providing, she went out under pretence of a visit to her husband; but instead thereof she went to Toon's brother, who taking her before a magistrate, some peace-officers were sent to take Blastock into custody.

Mrs. Toon directed the officers to the room where her brother was, in company with two men of his acquaintance, who were advising him on the emergency of his affairs. Blastock, suspecting some foul play, concealed himself in a closet; and, when the officers came in, they first seized one, and then the other, of the persons present; but were soon convinced that neither of them was the party they were in search of.

On this the officers made a stricter search, and, finding Blastock in the closet, took him into custody. Having taken leave of his wife and children, they carried him before a magistrate, who asked him if he had not a worse coat than that which he then wore. Blastock owned that he had, and actually sent for it; and it was kept to be produced in evidence against him.

While the officers were conducting him to Newgate in a coach, they told him that Mrs. Toon had given the information against him; at which he was so shocked, that it was some time before he could recover his recollection, being absolutely insensible when he was lodged in prison.

These malefactors, being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; and, after conviction, were confined in the same cell: but being unhappy together, from their mutual recriminations, the keeper caused them to be separated.

Toon behaved more penitently than malefactors usually do; and Blastock exhibited an uncommon

instance of unfeigned penitence and contrition.

They suffered at Tyburn, May 26, 1738, having embraced each other at the place of their death, and Blastock delivering the following speech to the surrounding multitude:—

‘ Dear friends,—I do not come here to excuse myself, although I have been first led into the crime for which I suffer, and then basely betrayed: no, I am sensible of my guilt; nor should I have made the world acquainted with this barbarous treatment that I have met with, even from a near relation, had it not been with a view of preventing the ruin of many young persons.

‘ Let my fate be an example to them ; and never let any man in trade think himself above his business, nor despise the offers of those who would serve him. Let them purchase wisdom at my cost, and never let slip any opportunity that bids fair to be of the least advantage to them ; for experience tells me that, had I done as I now advise you, I had never come to this end.

‘ The next thing is, never to trust your life in the hands of even a near relation ; for money will make those who pretend to be your nearest

friends your most bitter enemies.

Never be persuaded to do any thing you may be sorry for afterwards, nor believe the most solemn oaths, for there is no truth in imprecations; rather take a man's word, for those that will swear will lie. Not but that I believe there are some in the world who would suffer the worst of deaths rather than betray the trust reposed in them.

‘What I have here declared, as I am a dying man, I protest before God is true; and here, before God and the world, I freely forgive those who betrayed me, and die in peace with all mankind.

‘ I implore the forgiveness of that God who has promised pardon and mercy to all those who sincerely repent; and I hope I have done my best endeavours, while in prison, to make my peace with a justly offended God: I hope, the moment I leave this troublesome world, my soul will be received into eternal happiness, through the merits of Jesus Christ.

'I conclude with my prayers for the welfare of my poor unhappy wife and children, who are now reduced to misery; and, taking a long farewell of the world, I commit my spirit into the hands of Him who gave me being.'

JOSEPH JOHNSON,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

JOHNSON's parents lived in the Old Jewry ; and, being very poor people, his education was totally neglected. He kept bad company almost from his infancy; and, becoming a pickpocket while yet a child, he continued that practice till he was above twenty years of age.

He then took a new mode to defraud. He used to meet porters and errand-boys in the streets, and,

by a variety of false pretences, get possession of the goods intrusted to their care.* For one of these offences he was taken into custody, and tried at the Old Bailey, where he was acquitted in defect of evidence.

Having thus obtained his liberty, he had recourse to his former practices, till, being apprehended for stealing a sword, he was tried and

* This is an artifice that has been practised with too much success of late years; but, if servants intrusted with goods would deliver them only according to the orders given by their employers, the designs of thieves would in general be frustrated.

convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years' transportation.

It happened that one of his fellow-convicts was possessed of a stolen bank-note, which was changed, as is presumed, with the captain of the vessel, who had a gratuity for their liberty; for, when they arrived in America, they were set at large, and took lodgings at New York, where they lived some time in an expensive manner; and the captain, on his return to England, stopped at Rotterdam, where he offered the stolen note to a banker; on which he was lodged in prison, and did not obtain his liberty without considerable difficulty.

Johnson and his associate, having quitted New York, embarked for Holland, whence they came to England, where they assumed the dress and appearance of people of fashion, and frequented all the places of public diversion. Thus disguised, Johnson used to mix with the crowd, and steal watches, &c. which his accomplice carried off unsuspected.

The effects thus stolen were constantly sold to Jews, who sent them to Holland, where they were sold, and the robbers escaped undetected.

In the summer time, when London was thin of company, Johnson and his companion used to ride through the country, the former appearing as a gentleman of fortune, and the latter as his servant.

On their arrival at an inn, they inquired of the landlord into the circumstances of the farmers in the neighbourhood; and when they had learned the name and residence of one who was rich, with such other particulars as might forward their plan, the servant was dispatched to tell the farmer that the squire would be glad to speak with him at the inn; and he was commissioned to hint that his master's property in

the public funds was very considerable.

This bait generally succeeded: the farmer hastened to the inn, where he found the squire in an elegant undress; who, after the first compliments, informed him that he was come down to purchase a valuable estate in the neighbourhood, which he thought so well worth the buying, that he had agreed to pay part of the money that day: but, not having sufficient cash in his possession, he had sent for the farmer to lend him part of the sum; and assured him that he should be no loser by granting the favour.

To make sure of his prey, he had always some counterfeit jewels in his possession, which he used to deposit in the farmer's hands, to be taken up when the money was repaid; and, by artifices of this kind, Johnson and his associate acquired large sums of money; the former not only changing his name, but disguising his person, so that detection was almost impossible.

This practice he continued for a succession of years; and, in one of his expeditions of this kind, actually got possession of a thousand pounds, with which he escaped unsuspected.

In order to avoid detection, he took a small house in Southwark, where he used to live in the most obscure manner, not even permitting his servant-maid to open the window, lest he should be discovered.

Thus he continued committing these kind of frauds, and living in retirement on the profits arising from them, till he reached the age of sixty years; when, though he was poor, he was afraid to make fresh excursions to the country, but thought of confining his talents to London.

Hereupon he picked the pockets

of several persons of as many watches as produced money enough to furnish him with an elegant suit of clothes, in which he went to a public ball, where he walked a minuet with the kept-mistress of a nobleman, who invited him to drink tea with her on the following day.

He attended the invitation, when she informed him that she had another engagement to a ball, and should think herself extremely honoured by his company. He readily agreed to the proposal; but, while in company, he picked the pocket of Mr. Pye, a merchant's clerk, of a pocket-book, contain-

ing bank-notes to the amount of five hundred pounds.

Pye had no idea of his loss till the following day, when he should have accounted with his employer. Upon the discovery being made, immediate notice was sent to the Bank to stop payment of the notes; and Johnson was actually changing one of them, to the amount of fifty pounds, when the messenger came thither. Hereupon he was taken into custody, and being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for privately stealing, was capitally convicted; and this offence being without the benefit of clergy*, he was sentenced to death.

* **BENEFIT OF CLERGY.**—This is a legal phrase, or technical term, which is necessarily often repeated in criminal reports, while numbers are not apprised of its full meaning or its origin.

The dark clouds of barbarism which succeeded the downfall of the Roman empire having greatly effaced literary pursuits, the regular and secular clergy, with few exceptions, became the sole depositaries of books and learning. Ignorance is the footstool of ambition and tyranny; and thus the priest ruled the ignorant mass of the people with a rod of iron; but, as learning was slowly disseminated, the people's eyes opened to their sordid delusions.

As it is common to respect what we do not understand, the monks turned this advantage to good account; and it gradually became a principle of common law that no clerk, that is to say, no priest, should be tried by the civil power; a privilege which was enjoyed and abused for several hundred years, until a council or parliament at that time existing, provoked by murders, and other abominable crimes, set bounds to ecclesiastical enormities by a salutary regulation of the subject.

But this regulation was evaded by the insolence and artifice of the proud à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, who, for his turbulence, was assassinated before his own altar; and by the base pusillanimity of King John and his successors to the English throne during a long period.

The artful monks procured a law to be made (kings being then nearly arbitrary), by which any person convicted of felony was exempt from punishment 'if he could read and write as a priest'; and from this they derived considerable riches, by teaching prisoners to read and write, which acquirements, however odious and bloody their offences, rescued them from the penalty of the law: and the contrivers of this artful measure derived another advantage from it:—every desperate adventurer, every bold man, became a ready and submissive tool to the Church. This abominable imposition upon the people was continued until the reign of Edward VI. when priestcraft received some check.

At length it was enacted that no person convicted of manslaughter should claim the benefit of clergy, unless he be a peer of the realm, or actually in priest's orders; but by the 9th of James I. this partial and injurious exemption was entirely abolished.

It is a common opinion with numbers, that the words 'Without benefit of clergy' mean that no spiritual assistance shall be given, or a priest suffered to exhort the dying malefactor to confession of sin. The meaning simply is, that, even should a criminal be able to read and write, it shall not in any degree diminish his punishment, and that he shall not now be entitled to any of those privileges he formerly enjoyed by the clergy.

Such persons as have had no opportunity of inquiring into the subject will hardly believe that there are above one hundred and sixty offences punished by the law, 'Without benefit of clergy':—that is, capital offences, in which the priest's art of reading and writing, once taught to the ac-

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After conviction he behaved in the most improper manner, reviling God, and appearing to have no adequate sense of the awful fate that awaited him.

He was hanged at Tyburn July

19, 1738, without making any confession of his crimes, and refusing to join in the customary devotions on such an awful occasion, though an offender of above sixty years of age.



Richardson and Coyle attacking Capt. Hartley in his Cabin.

JOHN RICHARDSON AND RICHARD COYLE, EXECUTED FOR PIRACY AND MURDER.

THE crime of piracy is generally accompanied by murder. Richardson, to both these crimes, added that of swindling. His memory will with justice be particularly execrated by our female readers; for it will be found that, through the most consummate hypocrisy, he succeeded in seducing, and then abandoning, several of their sex.

John Richardson was an American, having been born in the city of New York, where he went to school till he was fourteen years old: he was then put under the care of his brother, who was a cooper; but, not liking that busi-

ness, he sailed on board a merchant-ship, commanded by his namesake, Captain Richardson.

After one voyage, he served five years to a carpenter; but having made an illicit connexion with his master's daughter, who became pregnant, he quitted his service, and entered on board a ship bound to Jamaica; on his arrival there he was impressed, put on board a man of war, and brought to England.

The ship's crew being paid at Chatham, he came to London, took lodgings in Horsleydown, and spent all his money. On this he entered

as boatswain on board a vessel bound to the Baltic; but, being weary of his situation, he soon quitted that station, having first concerted and executed the following scheme of fraud.

Knowing that there was a merchant in the country with whom the captain had dealings, he went to a tavern, and wrote a letter, as from the captain, desiring that the merchant would send him a hundred rix dollars. This letter he carried himself, and received the money from the merchant, who said he had more at the captain's service if it was wanted.

Being possessed of this sum, he, the next day, embarked on board a Dutch vessel bound to Amsterdam; and soon after his arrival connected himself with a woman whose husband had sailed as mate of a Dutch East India ship. With this woman he cohabited about eight months, when she told him that it would be necessary for him to decamp, as she daily expected her husband to return from his voyage.

Richardson agreed to depart, but first determined to rob her; and, having persuaded her to go to the play, he took her to a tavern afterwards, where he plied her with liquor till she was perfectly intoxicated. This being done, he attended her home, and, having got her to bed and found her fast asleep, he took the keys out of her pocket, and, unlocking the warehouse, stole India goods to the amount of two hundred pounds, which he conveyed to a lodging he had taken to receive them. He then replaced the keys; but, finding some that were smaller, he with those opened her drawers, and took out sixty pounds. Some years afterwards he saw this woman at Amsterdam, but she *made no complaint* of the robbery; *by which it may reasonably be supposed that she was afraid her hus-*

band might suspect her former illicit connexion.

Having put his stolen goods on board one of the Rotterdam boats, he departed for that place, where he found the captain of a vessel bound to New England, with whom he sailed at the expiration of four days.

On their arrival at Boston, Richardson went to settle about fifty miles up the country, in expectation that the property he possessed might procure him a wife of some fortune. Having taken his lodgings at a farmer's, he deposited his goods in a kind of warehouse.

It being now near the Christmas holydays, many of the country people solicited that he would keep the festival with them. These offers were so numerous, that he scarce knew how to determine; but at length accepted the invitation of a Mr. Brown, to which he was influenced by his having three daughters, and four maid-servants, all of them very agreeable young women.

Richardson made presents of India handkerchiefs to all the girls, and so far ingratiated himself into their favour that in a short time all of them were pregnant. But before this circumstance was discovered there happened to be a wedding, to which the daughter of a justice of the peace was invited as a bride-maid, and Richardson as a bride-man.

Our adventurer, soon becoming intimate with the young lady, persuaded her to go and see his lodgings and warehouse, and offered to make her a present of any piece of goods which she might deem worth her acceptance. At length she fixed on a piece of chintz, and carried it home with her.

Two days afterwards Richardson wrote to her; and, her answer being such as flattered his wishes, he likewise wrote to her father, requesting permission to pay his address

to the daughter. The old gentleman readily admitted his visits, and, at the end of three months, gave his consent that the young people should be united in wedlock.

As there were no licenses for marriage in that country, it was the uniform custom to publish the bans three successive Sundays in the church. On the first day no objection was made; but on the second Sunday all the girls from the house where he had spent his Christmas made their appearance to forbid the bans, each of them declaring that she was with child by the intended husband.

Hereupon Richardson slipped out of the church, leaving the people astonished at the singularity of the circumstance; but he had reason to suppose that it would not be long before he should hear from the father of the young lady, whom he had already seduced.

Accordingly, in a few days he received a letter from the old gentleman, begging that he would decline his visits, as his conduct furnished a subject of conversation for the whole country; and with his request Richardson very cheerfully complied; but in about four months he was sent for, when the justice offered him 300*l.* currency, to take his daughter as a wife. He seemed to hesitate at first; but at length consenting, the young lady and he went to a village at the distance of forty miles, where the bans were regularly published, and the marriage took place, before the other parties were apprized of it.

However, in a little time after the wedding, he was arrested by the friends of the girls whom he had debauched, in order to compel him to give security for the maintenance of the future children; on which his father-in-law engaged that he should not abscond, and paid him his wife's fortune.

Having thus possessed himself of the money, and being sick of his new connexion, he told his wife and her relations that, not being fond of a country life, he would go to New York and build him a ship, and would return at the expiration of three months. The family, having no suspicion of his intentions, took leave of him with every mark of affection; but he never went near them any more.

Having previously sent his effects to Boston, he went to that place, where he soon spent his money amongst the worst kind of company, and, no person being willing to trust him, was reduced to great distress. It now became necessary that he should work for his bread; and, being tolerably well skilled in ship-building, he got employment under a master-builder, who was a Quaker, and who treated him with the greatest indulgence.

The Quaker was an elderly man, who had a young wife, with whom Richardson wished to be better acquainted: he therefore one day quitted his work and went home to the house; but he had but just arrived there when he was followed by the old man, who came in search of him, and found him talking to his wife. The Quaker asked him what business he had there, and why he did not keep at his work. Richardson replied that he only came home for an augur: to which the Quaker said, 'Ah! friend John, I do not much like thee; my wife knows nothing of thy tools, and I fear thou hadst some evil thoughts in thy head.'

Hereupon Richardson went back to his work without making any reply, but soon afterwards demanded his wages. The Quaker hesitated to pay him, hinting that he was apprehensive his wife had paid him already; on which Richardson said he would sue him

for the debt, and desired him to consider that, if he made such an excuse in open court, he would be disgraced through the country.

On this the Quaker paid his demand, but absolutely forbade him ever to come within his house again; Richardson promising to obey, and intending to have complied with the injunction.

About eight days afterwards, the old gentleman, having some business up the country to purchase timber, desired his young wife to accompany him, to prevent any ill consequences that might arise in his absence. To avoid this journey, the lady feigned indisposition, and took to her bed.

The husband had not been long gone before Richardson, meeting the maid-servant in the street, asked after the health of her mistress, who, the girl said, wanted to see him; and he promised to wait upon her about nine in the evening.

Punctual to his engagement he attended the lady, and renewed his visits to her till the return of her husband was apprehended, when he broke open a chest, stole about seventy pounds, and immediately agreed with Captain Jones for his passage to Philadelphia.

When he arrived at the last-mentioned place, he took lodgings at the house of a widow who had two daughters; and, paying his addresses to the mother, he was so successful, that for four months, while he continued there, he acted as if he had been master of the house.

After this intimacy with the mother had continued some time, he became attached to one of the daughters; and on a Sunday, when the rest of the family were absent, found an opportunity of being alone with her; but the mother, returning at this juncture, interrupted their conversation, and ex-

pressed her anger in the most violent terms.

Nor was this all, for when she was alone with the offender she severely reproached him; but he made his peace by pretending an uncommon attachment to her; yet within a month she found him taking equal freedoms with her second daughter. Upon this the mother became outrageous, and told him that the consequence of his connexion with the other girl was, that she was already pregnant. Richardson now quarrelled in his turn, and told her that if her daughter was breeding she must procure her a husband, for he would have nothing to do with her.

At length, when the old woman's passions were in some degree calmed, he represented to her the impossibility of his marrying both her daughters; but said that, if she could procure a husband for one of them, he would take the other.

The old lady soon procured a young man to marry one of her daughters, and then constantly teased Richardson to wed the other, which he steadily refused to do unless she would advance him a sum of money. She hesitated for some time; but at length said she would give him a hundred pounds, and half her plate; on which he consented, and the marriage was solemnized; but he had no sooner possessed himself of this little fortune than he embarked on board a ship bound for South Carolina.

Within a month after his arrival in this colony he became acquainted with one Captain Roberts, with whom he sailed as mate and carpenter to Jamaica, and during the voyage was treated in the most friendly manner. The business in Jamaica being dispatched, they returned to Carolina.

The owner of the ship living at some distance up the country,

and the winter advancing, the captain fixed on Richardson as a proper person to sleep on board and take care of the vessel. This he did for some time, till about a week before Christmas, when he was invited to an entertainment to be given on occasion of the birth-day of his owner's only daughter.

A moderate share of skill in singing and dancing recommended Richardson to the notice of the company, and in particular to that of the young lady, by which he hoped to profit on a future occasion.

In the following month it happened that a wedding was to be celebrated at the house of a friend of the owner, on which occasion Richardson was sent for; and when he appeared the young lady welcomed him, wishing that he would oblige the company with a dance; to which he replied, that he should be happy to oblige the company in general, and her in particular.

Richardson, having been a partner with the young lady during the dancing at the wedding, begged leave to conduct her home; and, when the ceremonies of the wedding were ended, he had the honour to attend her to her abode. When they had got into the midst of a thick wood he pretended to be ill, and said he must get off his horse and sit down on the ground. She likewise dismounted, and they walked together under the shade of a chestnut-tree, where they remained till the approach of evening, when he conducted her home, after having received very convincing proofs of her kindness.

Going to his ship for that night, he went to her father's house on the following day, and found an opportunity of speaking to her, when he entreated her to admit of his occasional visits; but she said there were so many negro servants about

the house that it would be impossible. On this he said he would conduct her to the ship when the family were asleep; and the girl foolishly consenting to this proposal, the intrigue was carried on for a fortnight, when she became so apprehensive of a discovery that she would go no longer.

But the lovers being uneasy asunder, they bribed an old female negro, who constantly let Richardson into the young lady's chamber when the rest of the family were retired to rest.

At length the mother discovered that her daughter was with child, and charged her to declare who was the father, on which she confessed that it was Richardson. The mother acquainting her husband with the circumstance, the old gentleman sent for Richardson to supper, and, after rallying him on his prowess, told him that he must marry and support his daughter. Richardson said it was out of his power to support her; but the father promising his assistance, the marriage took place.

Soon afterwards the old gentleman gave his son-in-law the ship, and a good cargo, as a marriage portion, and Richardson embarked on a trading voyage to Barbadoes; but he had not been many days at sea when a violent storm arose, in which he lost his vessel and cargo, and he and his crew were obliged to take to the boat to save their lives.

After driving some days at sea, they were taken up by a vessel which carried them to St. Kitt's, where Richardson soon met with a Captain Jones, who told him that one of his wives had died of a broken heart. This circumstance, added to that of the loss of his ship, drove him distracted; so that he was confined to his chamber for four months.

On his recovery he went mate with the captain who had carried him to St. Kitt's ; but, quitting this station in about five months, he sailed to Antigua, where a young gentleman, who happened to be in company with Richardson, was so delighted with his skill in dancing a hornpipe, that he invited him to his father's house, where he was entertained for a fortnight with the utmost hospitality.

One day, as he was rambling with the young gentleman to take a view of some of the plantations, Richardson stopped on a sudden, and, putting his hand to his pocket, pretended to have lost his purse, containing twenty pistoles. The young gentleman told him there was more money in Antigua. 'True,' said Richardson, 'but I am a stranger here ; I am a Creolian from Meovis.' On this the other asked, 'Do you belong to the Richardsons at Meovis ? I know their character well.'

Our adventurer, aware that the governor of Meovis was named Richardson, had the confidence to declare that he was his son ; on which the other exclaimed, 'You his son, and want money in Antigua ! No, no ; only draw a bill upon your father, and I will engage that mine shall help you to the money.'

The project of raising cash in this manner delighted Richardson ; and the young gentleman's father was no sooner acquainted with the pretended circumstance than he expressed a willingness to supply him with a hundred pistoles, on which he drew a bill on his supposed father for the above-mentioned sum, and received the money.

About a week afterwards he wrote a letter to his imputed father, *informing him how generously he had been treated by his friends in*

Antigua, and subscribing himself his 'dutiful son.' This letter he intrusted to the care of a person in whom he could confide, with strict orders not to deliver it ; and, when as much time had elapsed as might warrant the expectation of an answer, he employed the mate of a ship to write a letter to the old gentleman, as from his supposed father, thanking him for his civilities to his son.

The gentleman was greatly pleased at the receipt of this letter, which he said contained more compliments than his conduct had deserved ; and he told Richardson that he might have any farther sum of money that he wanted. On this our adventurer, who was determined to take every advantage of the credulity of his new acquaintance, drew another bill for a hundred pistoles, and soon afterwards decamped.

He now embarked on board a vessel bound to Jamaica, and, on his arrival at Port Royal, purchased a variety of goods of a Jew merchant ; which, with other goods that the Jew gave him credit for, he shipped on board a trader to Carthagera, where he disposed of them : but he never went back to discharge his debt to the Jew.

From Carthagera he sailed to Vera Cruz, and thence to England, where he took lodgings with one Thomas Ballard, who kept a public house at Chatham. Now it happened that Ballard had a brother, who, having gone abroad many years before, had never been heard of. Richardson bearing a great resemblance to this brother, the publican conceived a strong idea that he was the same, and asked if his name was not Ballard. At first he answered in the negative ; but finding the warm prepossession of the other, and expecting to make some

advantage of his credulity, he at length acknowledged that he was his brother.

Richardson now lived in a sumptuous manner, and without any expense; and Ballard was never more uneasy than when any one doubted of the reality of the relationship. At length Ballard told Richardson that their two sisters were living at Sittingbourne, and persuaded him to go on a visit to them, to which Richardson readily agreed: the two sisters had no recollection of this man; however, Ballard having persuaded them that he was the real brother who had been so long absent, great rejoicings were made on account of his safe arrival in his native country.

After a week of festivity it became necessary for Ballard to return to his business at Chatham: but the sisters, unwilling to part with their newly found brother, persuaded him to remain awhile at Sittingbourne, and told him that their mother, who had been extremely fond of him, had left him twenty pounds, and the mare on which she used to ride; and in a short time he received the legacies.

During his residence with his presumptive sisters he became acquainted with Anne and Sarah Knolding, and, finding that their relations were deceased, and that Anne was left guardian to her sister, he paid his addresses to the former, who was weak enough to trust him with her money, bonds, writings, and the deeds of her estate. Hereupon he immediately went to Chatham, where he mortgaged the estate for three hundred pounds, and thence went to Gravesend, where he shipped himself on board a vessel bound to Venice.

On his arrival at that place he hired a house, and lived unemployed till he had spent the greater

part of his money; when he sold off his effects and went to Ancona, where he became acquainted with Captain Benjamin Hartley, who had come thither with a lading of pilchards, and on board whose ship was Richard Coyle, the other offender mentioned in this narrative.

Captain Hartley being in want of a carpenter, Richardson agreed to serve him in that capacity; and the ship sailed on a voyage to Turkey, where the captain took in a lading of corn, and then sailed for Leghorn. On the first night of this voyage, Coyle, who was chief mate, came on deck to Richardson, and asked him if he would be concerned in a secret plot to murder the captain and seize the vessel. Richardson at first hesitated; but he at length agreed to take his share in the villainy.

The plan being concerted, they went to the captain's cabin about midnight, with an intention of murdering him; but, getting from them, he ran up the shrouds, whither he was followed by Richardson and a seaman named Larson. The captain descended too quick for them; and as soon as he gained the deck Coyle attempted to shoot him with a blunderbuss, which missing fire, Mr. Hartley wrested it from his hands, and threw it into the sea.

This being done, Coyle and some others of the sailors heaved the captain overboard; but, as he hung by the ship's side, Coyle gave him several blows which rather stunned him; as, however, he did not let go his hold, Richardson seized an axe, with which he struck him so forcibly that he dropped into the sea.

Coyle now assumed the command of the ship, and, Richardson being appointed mate, they sailed towards the island of Malta, where they intended to have refitted; but some

of the crew objecting to putting in there, they agreed to go to Minorca. When they came opposite Cape Cona, on the coast of Barbary, the weather became so foul that they were compelled to lie-to for several days, after which they determined to sail for Foviniano, an island under the dominion of Spain.

Arriving at this place, they sent on shore for water and fresh provisions; but as they had come from Turkey, and could not produce letters of health, it was not possible for them to procure what they wanted.

It had been a practice with the pirates to keep watch alternately, in company with some boys who were on board; but during the night, while they lay at anchor off this place, two of the men destined to watch fell asleep: on which two of the boys hauled up a boat and went ashore, where they informed the governor of what had passed on board.

One of the parties who should have watched being awaked, he ran and called Richardson, whom he informed that the boys were gone; on which Richardson said it was time for them to be gone likewise; they therefore hauled up the long-boat without loss of time, and, putting on board her such things as would be immediately necessary, set sail, in the hope of making their escape.

In the interim the governor sent down a party of soldiers to take care of the ship, and prevent the escape of the pirates; but, it being quite dark, they could not discern the vessel, though she lay very near the shore: but, when they heard the motion of the oars, they fired at the pirates, who all escaped unwounded.

Steering towards Tunis, they stopped at a small island called *Marritime*, where they diverted them-

selves with killing rabbits: for, though the place is apparently little more than a barren rock, yet it so abounds with these animals that a man may easily kill a thousand in a day.

Leaving this place, they stopped twelve miles short of Tunis, where Richardson was apprehended, and carried before the governor, who asking whence he came, he told him he was master of a vessel, which having been lost off the coast of Sardinia, he was necessitated to take to his long-boat, and had been driven thither by distress of weather.

This story being credited, the governor seemed concerned for the fate of him and his companions, and recommended them to the house of an Italian, where they might be accommodated; sending, in the mean time, to the English consul, to inform him that his countrymen were in distress.

When they had been about a fortnight at this place Richardson sold the long-boat, and, having divided the produce among his companions, he went to Tunis to be examined by the English consul, to whom he told the same story that he had previously told the governor: on which the consul ordered him to make a formal protest thereof, for the benefit of the owners and their own security.

Hereupon the consul supplied him with money, which he shared with his companions. Coyle kept himself continually drunk with the money he had received, and, during his intoxication, spoke so freely of their transactions, that he was taken into custody by order of the consul, and sent to England; and Richardson would have also been apprehended, but, being upon his guard, and learning what had happened to his companion, he embarked on

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board a ship bound for Tripoli, where he arrived in safety.

At this place he drew a bill on an English merchant of Leghorn, by which he obtained twenty pounds, and then embarked for the island of Malta; he sailed from thence to Saragossa, in the island of Sicily, whence going to Messina, he was known by a gentleman who had lived at Ancona, and who, remembering his engagement in the service of Captain Hartley, had him apprehended on suspicion of the murder.

He remained in prison at Messina nine months: on which he wrote a petition to the King of Naples, setting forth that he had been a servant to his father, and praying the royal orders for his release. In consequence of this petition the governor of Messina was commanded to set him at liberty; on which he travelled to Rome, and thence to Civita Vecchia, where he hoped to get employment on board the Pope's galleys in consequence of having turned Roman Catholic.

While he was at Civita Vecchia he became known to Captain Blomet, who invited him, with other company, on board his ship: when the company was gone, the captain showed him a letter, in which he was described as one of the murderers of Captain Hartley. Richardson denied the charge; but the captain calling down some hands, he was put in irons, and sent to Leghorn, whence he was transmitted to Lisbon: here he remained three months, and being then put on board the packet-boat, and brought to Falmouth, he was conveyed to London. Richardson was lodged first in the Marshalsea, but afterwards removed to Newgate; and, being tried at the Old Bailey, received sentence of death, along with Coyle, for the murder of Captain Hartley.

Richard Coyle was a native of Devonshire, and born near Exeter. His parents having given him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a maritime life, he was apprenticed to the master of a trading vessel, and served his time with reputation to himself and satisfaction to his employer.

When his time was expired, he made several voyages in ships of war, and likewise served on board various merchantmen; he had also been master of a ship for seventeen years, generally sailing from, and returning to, the port of London. In these commands he maintained a good character; but, meeting with misfortunes, he was reduced to serve as mate in different ships; and at length sailed with Captain Hartley, bound to the Levant, when he became acquainted with Richardson, as already related.

After conviction Coyle acknowledged the equity of the sentence against him; and, in some letters to his friends, confessed his penitence for the crime of which he had been guilty, and his readiness to yield his life as an atonement for his offences.

With respect to Richardson, he seemed regardless of the dreadful fate that awaited him; and, having lived a life of vice and dissipation, appeared altogether indifferent to the manner in which that life should end.

The above-mentioned malefactors were hanged at Execution Dock on the 25th of January, 1738.

With regard to Coyle, we do not hear that he had been guilty of any notorious crime but that for which he died; but the life of Richardson was such a continued scene of irregularity, deception, and fraud, as is almost unequalled. His treachery to the many unhappy women of whom he pretended to be enamoured was, alone, deserving of the fate which finally fell to his lot.

GEORGE MANLEY,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

W^e have no particulars either of the life of this criminal, or the circumstances attending the horrid crime for which he was executed. We have indeed found a note, briefly naming the case of George Manley, but evidently inserted for the purpose of introducing a singular speech made by him to the spectators at the place of execution, which evinces strong natural abilities, and a knowledge of mankind seldom found in criminals of his description. As we have never met with a dying speech so satirical and severe upon the general turpitude of mankind, we readily present it to our readers. Be it said that this man was hardened, fearless, or mad; we exclaim with Shakspeare,

'If this be madness, there is method in it.'

George Manley, having arrived at the place of execution, (at Wicklow, in Ireland, August, 1738,) behaved in a strange and undaunted manner, addressing the spectators thus :—

‘ My friends,—You assemble to see—what?—A man take a leap into the abyss of death. Look, and you shall see me go with as much courage as Curtius, when he leaped into the gulf to save his country from destruction. What then will you say of me?—You say that no man without virtue can be courageous. You see I am courageous. You’ll say I have killed a man.—Marlborough killed his thousands, and Alexander his millions: Marlborough and Alexander, and many others who have done the like, are famous in history for great men. But I killed one solitary man. Ay, that’s the case—one solitary man. I’m a little murderer, and must be hanged. Marlborough and Alexander plundered countries ;

they were great men. I ran in debt with the ale-wife; I must be hanged.

'Now, my friends, I have drawn a parallel between two of the greatest men that ever lived and myself; but these were men of former days. Now I'll speak a word of some of the present days. How many men were lost in Italy and upon the Rhine, during the last war, for settling a king in Poland? Both sides could not be in the right; they are great men: but I killed a solitary man, I'm a little fellow. The King of Spain takes our ships, plunders our merchants, kills and tortures our men; but what of all that? What he does is good; he's a great man, he is clothed in purple; his instruments of murder are bright and shining, mine was but a rusty gun; and so much for comparison.

‘ Now I would fain know what authority there is in Scripture for a rich man to murder, to plunder, to torture, and ravage whole countries ; and what law it is that condemns a poor man to death for killing a solitary man, or stealing a solitary sheep to feed his family ? But bring the matter closer to our own country. What is the difference between running in a poor man’s debt, and by the power of gold, or any other privilege, preventing him from obtaining his right ; and clapping a pistol to a man’s breast, and taking from him his purse ? Yet the one shall thereby obtain a coach, and honours, and titles, &c. The other—what ? —A cart and a rope.

'From what I have said, my brethren, you may perhaps imagine I am hardened: but, believe me, I am fully convinced of my follies, and acknowledge that the just judg-

ment of God has overtaken me ; I have no hopes but from the merits of my Redeemer, who I hope will have mercy on me, as he knows that murder was far from my heart, and that what I did was through rage

and passion, being provoked there- to by the deceased.

'Take warning, my dear com- rades ! Think, O think, what I would now give that I had lived another life !'

WILLIAM NEWINGTON,
EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

This unhappy young man was a native of Chichester in Sussex, and was the son of reputable parents, who, having given him a good edu- cation, placed him with Mr. Cave, an attorney of that town, with whom he served his clerkship ; and then, coming to London, lived as a hackney writer with Mr. Studley, in Nicholas Lane, Lombard Street, for about two years and a half.

But Newington being of a vola- tile disposition, and much disposed to the keeping of company and irregular hours, Mr. Studley dis- charged him from his service ; on which he went to live with Mr. Leaver, a scrivener, in Friday Street, with whom he continued between two and three years, and served him with a degree of fidelity that met with the highest approba- tion.

This service he quitted about a year before he was convicted of the offence which cost him his life ; and in the interval lived in a gay man- ner, without having any visible means of support, and paid his ad- dresses to a young lady of very handsome fortune, to whom he would soon have been married if he had not been embarrassed by the commission of the crime which gives rise to this narrative.

It is presumed that, being dis- tressed for money to support his expensive way of life, and to carry on his amour, he was tempted to commit forgery, which, by an Act

of Parliament then recently passed, had become a capital offence.

He went to Child's coffee-house in St. Paul's Churchyard, where he drew a draft on the house of Child and Company, bankers, in Fleet Street, in the following words :

'Sir Francis Child and Comp.

'Pray pay Sir Rowland Hill, Bart. or order, the sum of one hun- dred and twenty pounds, and place it to the account of

'Your humble servant,

'THOMAS HILL.

'To Sir Fra. Child and
Comp. Temple Bar.'

The draft he dispatched by a porter, but was so agitated by his fears while he wrote it, that he for- got to put any date to it ; otherwise, as Mr. Thomas Hill kept cash with the bankers, and as the forgery was admirably executed, the draft would have been paid ; but, at the instant that the porter was about to put his indorsement on it, one of the clerks said he might go about his business, for they did not believe that the draft was a good one.

The porter returned to the coffee- house without the draft, which the bankers' clerks had refused to de- liver him : but on his return he found that the gentleman was gone.

At the expiration of two hours the bankers' clerks came to Child's coffee-house, and inquired for the person who had made the draft ; but he was not to be found ; for in

the absence of the porter he had inquired for the Faculty Office in Doctors' Commons, saying he had some business at that place, and would return in half an hour.

About two or three hours afterwards the porter's son told him that a gentleman wanted him at the Horn and Feathers, in Carter Lane, where he went, and told Newington that the bankers had refused to pay the note: 'Very well,' said he; 'stay here till I go and put on my shoes, and I will go with you and rectify the mistake.'

When the porter had waited nearly three hours, and his employer did not return, he began to suspect that the draft was forged ; and, some hours afterwards, calling in at the Fountain alehouse, in Cheapside, he saw Newington, on which he went and fetched a constable, who took him into custody and lodged him in the Compter.

Being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was capitally convicted, notwithstanding nine gentlemen appeared to give him an excellent character; but character has little weight where evidence is positive and the crime capital.

When called down to receive sentence of death he delivered the following address:—

' May it please your Lordship,—
This my most melancholy case was
occasioned alone by the inconsi-
derate rashness of my inexperienced
years. The intent of fraud is, with-
out doubt, most strongly and most
positively found against me: but I
assure your Lordship I was not in
want; nor did I ever think of such a
thing in the whole course of my life
till within a few minutes of the exe-
cution of this rash deed.

⁵⁰ 'I hope your Lordship has some regard for the gentlemen who have so generously appeared in my be-

half; and as this is the first act, though of so deep a die, my youth and past conduct may, I hope, in some measure move your Lordship's pity, compassion, and generous assistance.'

After conviction Newington flattered himself that he should escape the utmost ignominy of the law through the intercession of his friends; and when the warrant for execution, in which his name was included, was brought to Newgate, he appeared to be greatly shocked; but, recollecting and composing himself, he said, 'God's will be done!' Immediately, however, bursting into tears, he lamented the misery which his mother would naturally endure when she should be acquainted with the wretched fate of her unfortunate son.

The dreadful tidings being conveyed to this unhappy woman, she left Chichester with an aching heart; and it was a week after her arrival in London before she could acquire a sufficient degree of spirits to visit the miserable cause of her grief.

At length she repaired to the gloomy mansion ; but, when she saw her son fettered with chains, it was with the utmost difficulty that she could be kept from fainting. She hung round his neck, while he dropped on his knees, and implored her blessing and forgiveness ; and so truly mournful was the spectacle, that even the gaolers, accustomed as they are to scenes of horror, shed tears at the sight.

Newington underwent the sentence of the law at Tyburn, on the 26th of August, 1738.

It does not appear, from any account transmitted to us, that Newington ever violated the laws of his country in any instance but that for which he suffered: but when we

consider the nature of the offence itself, its dangerous operation upon the mercantile world, and the extremity of distress in which he involved his mother, we can hardly say that he suffered too much.

No man has a right, for the support of his own extravagance, to make free with the property of another. Honest industry will sup-

port those who are in youth and health, and choose to exert their endeavours: and, with regard to the aged and infirm, our laws have provided a parish supply; which, if not as ample as could be wished, is sufficient for the support of nature: so that no person can be justified in the commission of an act of dishonesty.

DAVID ROBERTS,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

DAVID ROBERTS was a native of Chepstow, in Monmouthshire, and apprenticed to a joiner; but, quitting his master's service, he worked some time as a journeyman at Devizes, in Wiltshire, where he married a wife with a fortune of three hundred pounds.

His wife dying in childbed, he remained at Devizes a considerable time, during which he dissipated all her fortune, except about forty pounds, with which he came to London, and took lodgings with a widow who kept a public house. Roberts soon became so intimate with the widow, that she told him it was necessary he should marry her. He did not hesitate to embrace the proposal, imagining that the marriage would procure him a decent establishment in life; but, being frequently arrested for debts contracted by his wife previously to the marriage, he determined to abandon her; with which view he sold the household furniture to a broker, and left his wife to provide for herself.

He now engaged in partnership with his brother, who was a carpenter in Southwark, and, having saved a considerable sum of money during the connexion, he embarked in business for himself, and obtained a large share of credit from the timber-merchants; but, when

his debts became due, he took lodgings within the rules of the King's Bench, of which place he became a prisoner in order to evade the payment of them.

Even while in this situation he undertook a piece of work by which he made three hundred pounds profit, and might have been a greater gainer, but that he quarrelled with his employer. At this period one Sarah Bristow, who had been transported for a felony, returned after the expiration of a year, and, becoming acquainted with Roberts, lived with him as his wife for a considerable time.

He now took this woman to Bristol, where he rented an inn, and furnished it by the help of those people who would trust him; but one of his London creditors, getting notice of the place of his retreat, arrested him; and Roberts, standing trial, cast him on account of some informality in taking out the writ.

Roberts, however, thought it imprudent to remain in his present station; and therefore, shipping his effects for London, he and Mrs. Bristow came to town, and lodged within the rules of the King's Bench, of which Roberts became again a prisoner.

Notwithstanding his situation, he took an inn that was at that time to

be let at Coventry; but, while he was giving directions for the putting up of a new sign, he was observed by a timber merchant, named Smith, to whom he owed fifty-five pounds.

Mr. Smith rode forward to another inn, where he learnt that Roberts had taken the house where he had seen him; and, on his return to London, he sent a commission to an attorney to arrest him for the sum above mentioned. Roberts found means to compromise this affair; but his other creditors learning whither he had retired, it soon became necessary for him to conceal himself.

Thinking it would be unsafe to remain long in Coventry, he commissioned Mrs. Bristow to purchase all such goods as she could get on credit, and send them to the inn, with a view to carry them off to some place where they were not known.

After some articles had been obtained in this manner Roberts was necessitated to make a precipitate retreat, owing to the following circumstance:—An attorney and bailiff, having procured a search-warrant, employed some dragoons who were quartered in the town to search Roberts's house, on pretence of finding stolen goods: but the dragoons were no sooner entered than they were followed by the bailiffs, on which Roberts dropped from the window of a room where he had concealed himself, and escaped through the garden of his next neighbour.

As it now became necessary that he should retire from Coventry, he left Mrs. Bristow, and came to London, desiring that she would send the goods she had obtained by a waggon, directed to him in a suppositions name.

Pursuant to his instructions, she loaded a waggon with these ill-

gotten effects; but some of the creditors, having obtained intelligence of what was intended, attached the goods.

Hereupon Mrs. Bristow wrote word to Roberts, giving a short account of what had happened; on which he sent one Carter to obtain full information respecting the affair; but Carter staying much longer than he was expected to do, Roberts set out for Coventry, notwithstanding the risk to which he knew he exposed himself by appearing in that place.

On his arrival he found the house stripped of every thing but a small quantity of beer, with some benches and chairs; and observed that Mrs. Bristow and Carter were in a high degree of intimacy. However, he did not stay long to examine into the state of affairs; for the woman told him it would be prudent for him to conceal himself in some retired place till she came to him.

Pursuant to this advice he waited at the extremity of the town more than three hours, when the other parties came to him, and advised him to retire to London with all possible expedition; but did not give him money to defray his expenses. He was greatly incensed at this behaviour; not, however, expressing his resentment, as he was fearful of being arrested if he should provoke the other parties.

He was soon followed by Mrs. Bristow and Carter; but, as they brought no more money with them than about fifteen pounds, he was exceedingly mortified; however, as he was still in possession of the lease of the house, he knew he could not be legally deprived of it while he duly paid the land-tax and ground-rent.

Roberts now moved the Court of King's Bench for a rule against his creditors, to show cause why

they had attached his goods; and the Court recommending to each party to settle the matter by arbitration, it was awarded that Roberts should receive one hundred and thirty pounds, and give his creditors a bill of sale for the lease and effects; but Roberts not having paid for the fixtures, the owner of them instituted a suit for recovery; and on the day the other creditors took possession of the house an execution was returned from the Court of Common Pleas.

Another suit arose from this circumstance; but, 'a writ of inquiry being directed to the sheriff of Coventry, a verdict was found for the creditors under the award, because that order had been made prior to the execution.'

While these matters were pending, Roberts, being distressed for cash, borrowed five pounds, for the payment of which Carter was security; but the debt not being paid when due, Carter was arrested for the money, while Roberts secreted himself in a lodging at Hoxton, where he received the one hundred and thirty pounds decreed to him by the award above mentioned.

Carter soon finding Roberts's place of retreat, a quarrel arose between them; but at length the former asked Roberts to lend him twenty pounds, saying he could acquire a fortune by the possession of such a sum; and that he would repay the money at twenty shillings a month, and give a good premium for the use of it.

Roberts asking how this money was to be employed to such advantage, the other said it was to purchase a liquid which would dissolve gold; whereupon the former said he would not lend him the money; in revenge for which Carter caused him to be arrested for the five pounds above mentioned.

Roberts now took refuge within the rules of the King's Bench, while Carter, who had found means to raise money for his purpose, took to the practice of diminishing the coin, in which he was so successful that he soon abounded in cash: on this the other became very anxious to know the secret, which Carter refused to discover, saying he had been ill treated in their former transactions.

Carter's method of diminishing the coin was by a chymical preparation; and Roberts imagined he had learned how to do it, for which purpose he purchased a crucible; but his experiment failed in the first attempt. Hereupon he again sought for Carter, whom he found in company with some other diminishers of the coin, and offered him money to give him the necessary instructions.

Carter took the money, and desired Roberts to wait till he fetched some tools; but, in fact, he went for two sheriff's officers to arrest him. The transaction had passed in a public house, and Roberts, seeing the bailiffs crossing the street, made his escape by a back window; but, in his hurry, went off with Carter's hat instead of his own.

Having thus escaped from immediate danger, he became apprehensive that Carter might be base enough to indict him for felony; on which he returned the hat, with a letter, earnestly entreating a reconciliation. Carter went to him, and told him that, for twenty guineas, he would teach him his art; but Roberts offering a much inferior price, no agreement took place.

Roberts now again took refuge within the rules of the King's Bench; and, having failed to obtain the desired secret, determined on a practice equally dishonest and

dangerous, which was that of filing of gold.

Mrs. Bristow still cohabited with him; and, when he had filed off as much dust as was worth ten pounds, he put it into a tobacco-box, under his bed, which she stole, and sold the contents; but after this he obtained a considerable sum of money by employing a person, at half a crown a day, to sell the filings.

After some time, not agreeing with the person whom he had thus employed, he determined to act for himself, and, having sold a quantity of dust to a refiner, he went to a public house near Hicks's Hall, kept by a Mr. Rogers, whom he asked to give him a bank-note for some gold. Rogers, on feeling the guineas, found that some of the dust stuck to his fingers; on which he said, 'What have we got here? The fellow who filed these guineas ought to be hanged for doing his business in so clumsy a manner.' Without saying more, he stepped out and procured a constable, who took Roberts into custody, but at length, after detaining him six hours, discharged him on his own authority.

Roberts was no sooner at liberty than he prosecuted the publican and constable in the Court of King's Bench for false imprisonment; but he failed in this suit, and an evidence whom he had subpoenaed in his behalf was committed on a charge of perjury, while the publican was bound to prosecute Roberts, who, taking out a writ of habeas corpus, lodged privately at Bath, a public

retreat, and
at Lisbon,
as a news-
paper was de-
livered to-
day saw

another advertisement, offering a reward for apprehending them both. On this Roberts offered the captain of a ship five guineas to carry them to Dunkirk; but this was refused, on account of the boisterousness of the weather.

Thus disappointed, they repaired to Ramsgate, where they met Mrs. Bristow's brother, who was likewise included in the advertisement, and they all went on board a vessel bound for Calais; but, quarrelling among themselves, the captain gave orders that they should be landed at Dover. Provoked by this, Roberts threw the captain into the sea, and, if the boat had not been sent to take him up, he must infallibly have been drowned.

The captain was no sooner on board than Roberts took the helm, and steered the vessel to her port; but, on their landing, Mrs. Bristow's brother making the Custom-house officers acquainted with Roberts's character, his boxes were searched, and the implements for filing money found; but he escaped to Dunkirk while they were making the search.

Hence Roberts went to Ostend, and, sending for Mrs. Bristow to that place, they embarked again for England, and took lodgings in Fountain Court, in the Strand, which they quitted after a residence of six weeks.

Roberts could not detach himself from the idea of procuring a subsistence by filing money; and in pursuit of this illicit practice he took a house at Bath, where he used to work at his occupation during the night.

Going to a chymist's shop one morning to purchase a liquid, he saw a gentleman who knew him; on which he went home forthwith, and told Mrs. Bristow that he was apprehensive of being taken into

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custody. His presages were just, for some officers came to his house almost immediately, and conveyed him before a justice of peace, who committed him to prison, and sent notice to London of his being in custody.

During his confinement at Bath he was supplied with instruments for filing off his irons; but discovery of this affair being made, he was kept

in the strictest confinement till he was transmitted to London.

Being brought to trial at the Old Bailey, he was convicted on the fullest evidence, and received sentence of death. On the night before his execution, which took place at Tyburn, April 3, 1739, he acknowledged to the keeper of Newgate that he had murdered his first wife during her lying-in.



Turpin placing an old Woman on the Fire, to compel the Discovery of her Treasure.

RICHARD TURPIN,

EXECUTED FOR HORSE-STEALING.

THIS man was the son of John Turpin, a farmer at Thackstead, in Essex; and, having received a common school education, was apprenticed to a butcher in Whitechapel; but was distinguished from his early youth for the impropriety of his behaviour, and the brutality of his manners.

On the expiration of his apprenticeship he married a young woman

of East Ham, in Essex, named Palmer; but he had not been long married before he took to the practice of stealing his neighbours' cattle, which he used to kill and cut up for sale.

Having stolen two oxen belonging to Mr. Giles, of Plaietow, he drove them to his own house; but two of Giles's servants, suspecting who was the robber, went to Tur-

pin's, where they saw the carcasses of two beasts of such size as had been lost; but, as the hides were stripped from them, it was impossible to say that they were the same: learning, however, that Turpin used to dispose of his hides at Waltham Abbey, they went thither, and saw the hides of the individual beasts that had been stolen.

No doubt now remaining who was the robber, a warrant was procured for the apprehension of Turpin; but, learning that the peace-officers were in search of him, he made his escape from the back window of his house at the very moment they were entering at the door.

Having retreated to a place of security, he found means to inform his wife where he was concealed: she accordingly furnished him with money, with which he travelled into the hundreds of Essex, where he joined a gang of smugglers, with whom he was for some time successful; till a set of the Custom-house officers, by one fortunate stroke, deprived him of all his ill-acquired gains.

Thrown out of this kind of business, he connected himself with a gang of deer-stealers, the principal part of whose depredations were committed on Epping Forest, and the parks in its neighbourhood: but, this business not succeeding to the expectation of the robbers, they determined to commence house-breakers.

Their plan was, to fix on houses that they presumed contained any valuable property; and, while one of them knocked at the door, the others were to rush in, and seize whatever they might deem worthy of their notice.

The first attack of this kind was at the house of Mr. Strype, an old man who kept a chandler's shop at Watford, whom they robbed of all

the money in his possession, but did not offer him any personal violence.

Turpin now acquainted his associates that there was an old woman at Loughton who was in possession of seven or eight hundred pounds; whereupon they agreed to rob her; and when they came to the door one of them knocked, and the rest, forcing their way into the house, tied handkerchiefs over the eyes of the old woman and her maid.

This being done, Turpin demanded what money was in the house; and the owner hesitating to tell him, he threatened to set her on the fire if she did not make an immediate discovery. Still, however, she refused to give the desired information: on which the villains actually placed her on the fire, where she sat till the tormenting pains compelled her to discover her hidden treasure; so that the robbers possessed themselves of above four hundred pounds, and decamped with the booty.

Some little time after this they agreed to rob the house of a farmer near Barking; and, knocking at the door, the people declined to open it: on which they broke it open; and having bound the farmer, his wife, his son-in-law, and the servant-maid, they robbed the house of above seven hundred pounds; which delighted Turpin so much, that he exclaimed, 'Ay, this will do, if it would always be so!' and the robbers retired with their prize, which amounted to above eighty pounds for each of them.

This desperate gang, now flushed with success, determined to attack the house of Mr. Mason, the keeper of Epping Forest; and the time was fixed when the plan was to be carried into execution: but Turpin, having gone to London to spend his share of the former booty, intoxi-

cated himself to such a degree that he totally forgot the appointment.

Nevertheless, the rest of the gang resolved that the absence of their companion should not frustrate the proposed design ; and, having taken a solemn oath to break every article of furniture in Mason's house, they set out on their expedition.

Having gained admission, they beat and kicked the unhappy man with great severity. Finding an old man sitting by the fire-side, they permitted him to remain uninjured ; and Mr. Mason's daughter escaped their fury by running out of the house, and taking shelter in a hogsty.

After ransacking the lower part of the house, and doing much mischief, they went up stairs, where they broke every thing that fell in their way, and, among the rest, a china punch-bowl, from which dropped one hundred and twenty guineas, which they made prey of, and effected their escape. They now went to London in search of Turpin, with whom they shared the booty, though he had not taken part in the execution of the villainy.

On the 11th of January, 1735, Turpin and five of his companions went to the house of Mr. Saunders, a rich farmer at Charlton, in Kent, between seven and eight in the evening, and, having knocked at the door, asked if Mr. Saunders was at home. Being answered in the affirmative, they rushed into the house, and found Mr. Saunders, with his wife and friends, playing at cards in the parlour. They told the company that they should remain uninjured if they made no disturbance. Having made prize of a silver snuff-box which lay on the table, part of the gang stood guard over the rest of the company, while the others attended Mr. Saunders through the house, and, breaking

open his escrutoires and closets, stole above a hundred pounds, exclusive of plate.

During these transactions the servant-maid ran up stairs, barred the door of her room, and called out ' Thieves ! ' with a view of alarming the neighbourhood ; but the robbers broke open the door, secured her, and then robbed the house of all the valuable property they had not before taken. Finding some mince-pies, and some bottles of wine, they sat down to regale themselves ; and, meeting with a bottle of brandy, they compelled each of the company to drink a glass of it.

Mrs. Saunders fainting through terror, they administered some drops, in water, to her, and recovered her to the use of her senses. Having staid in the house a considerable time, they packed up their booty and departed, having first declared that if any of the family gave the least alarm within two hours, or advertised the marks of the stolen plate, they would return and murder them at a future time.

Retiring to a public house at Woolwich, where they had concerted the robbery, they crossed the Thames to an empty house in Ratcliffe Highway, where they deposited the stolen effects till they found a purchaser for them.

The division of the plunder having taken place, they, on the 18th of the same month, went to the house of Mr. Sheldon, near Croydon, in Surrey, where they arrived about seven in the evening. Having got into the yard, they perceived a light in the stable, and, going into it, found the coachman attending his horses. Having immediately bound him, they quitted the stable, and, meeting Mr. Sheldon in the yard, they seized him, and compelled him to conduct them into the house, whence they stole eleven guineas,

with jewels, plate, and other things of value, to a large amount. Having committed this robbery, they returned Mr. Sheldon two guineas, and apologized for their conduct.

This being done, they hastened to the Black Horse, in the Broadway, Westminster, where they concerted the robbery of Mr. Lawrence, of Edgware, near Stanmore, in Middlesex, for which place they set out on the 4th of February, and arrived at a public house in that village about five o'clock in the evening. From this place they went to Mr. Lawrence's house, where they arrived about seven o'clock, just as he had discharged some people who had worked for him.

Having left their horses at the outer gate, one of the robbers, going forwards, found a boy who had just returned from folding his sheep: the rest of the gang following, a pistol was presented, and instant destruction threatened if he made any noise. They then took off his garters, tied his hands therewith, and told him to direct them to the door, and, when they knocked, to answer, and bid the servants open it, in which case they would not hurt him: but, when the boy came to the door, he was so terrified that he could not speak; on which one of the gang knocked, and a man-servant, imagining it was one of the neighbours, opened the door, whereupon they all rushed in, armed with pistols.

Having seized Mr. Lawrence and his servant, they threw a cloth over their faces, and, taking the boy into another room, demanded what fire-arms were in the house; to which he replied, only an old gun, which they broke in pieces. They then bound Mr. Lawrence and his man, and made them sit by the boy; and Turpin, searching the gentleman, took from him a guinea, a Portugal

piece, and some silver; but, not being satisfied with this booty, they forced him to conduct them up stairs, where they broke open a closet, and stole some money and plate: but, that not being sufficient, they threatened to murder Mr. Lawrence, each of them destining him to a different death, as the savageness of his own nature prompted. At length one of them took a kettle of water from the fire, and threw it over him; but it providentially happened not to be hot enough to scald him.

In the interim, the maid-servant, who was churning butter in the dairy, hearing a noise in the house, apprehended some mischief, on which she blew out her candle to screen herself; but, being found in the course of their search, one of the miscreants compelled her to go up stairs, where he gratified his brutal passion by force. They then robbed the house of all the valuable effects they could find, locked the family into the parlour, threw the key into the garden, and took their ill-gotten plunder to London.

The particulars of this atrocious robbery being represented to the king, a proclamation was issued for the apprehension of the offenders, promising a pardon to any one of them who would impeach his accomplices; and a reward of fifty pounds was offered, to be paid on conviction. This, however, had no effect; the robbers continued their depredations as before; and, flushed with the success they had met with, seemed to bid defiance to the laws.

On the 7th of February six of them assembled at the White Bear inn, in Drury Lane, where they agreed to rob the house of Mr. Francis, a farmer near Marylebone. Arriving at the place, they found a servant in the cow-house, whom, threatening to murder if he was not

perfectly silent, they bound fast. This being done, they led him into the stable, where, finding another of the servants, they bound him in the same manner.

In the interim Mr. Francis happening to come home, they presented their pistols to his breast, and threatened instant destruction to him if he made the least noise or opposition.

Having bound the master in the stable with his servants, they rushed into the house, tied Mrs. Francis, her daughter, and the maid-servant, and beat them in a most cruel manner. One of the thieves stood as a sentry while the rest rifled the house, in which they found a silver tankard, a medal of Charles I. a gold watch, several gold rings, a considerable sum of money, and a variety of valuable linen and other effects, which they conveyed to London.

Hereupon a reward of one hundred pounds was offered for the apprehension of the offenders; in consequence of which two of them were taken into custody, tried, convicted on the evidence of an accomplice, and hanged in chains: and the whole gang being dispersed, Turpin went into the country to renew his depredations on the public.

On a journey towards Cambridge, he met a man genteelly dressed, and well mounted; and, expecting a good booty, he presented a pistol to the supposed gentleman, and demanded his money. The party thus stopped happened to be one King, a famous highwayman, who knew Turpin; and, when the latter threatened instant destruction if he did not deliver his money, King burst into a fit of laughter, and said, 'What, dog eat dog?—Come, come, brother Turpin, if you don't know me I know you, and shall be glad of your company.'

These brethren in iniquity soon struck the bargain, and, immediately entering on business, committed a number of robberies; till at length they were so well known that no public house would receive them as guests. Thus situated, they fixed on a spot between the King's Oak and the Loughton road, on Epping Forest, where they made a cave which was large enough to receive them and their horses.

This cave was enclosed within a sort of thicket of bushes and brambles, through which they could look and see passengers on the road, while themselves remained unobserved.

From this station they used to issue, and robbed such a number of persons, that at length the very pedlars who travelled the road carried fire-arms for their defence: and, while they were in this retreat, Turpin's wife used to supply them with necessaries, and frequently remained in the cave during the night.

Having taken a ride as far as Bungay, in Suffolk, they observed two young countrywomen receive fourteen pounds for corn, on which Turpin resolved to rob them of the money. King objected, saying it was a pity to rob such pretty girls: but Turpin was obstinate, and obtained the booty.

Upon their return home, on the following day, they stopped a Mr. Bradle, of London, who was riding in his chariot with his children. The gentleman, seeing only one robber, was preparing to make resistance, when King called to Turpin to hold the horses. They took from the gentleman his watch, money, and an old mourning-ring; but returned the latter, as he declared that its intrinsic value was trifling; yet he was very unwilling to part with it.

Finding that they readily parted with the ring, he asked them what he must give for the watch: on which King said to Turpin, 'What say you, Jack? Here seems to be a good honest fellow; shall we let him have the watch?' Turpin replied, 'Do as you please;' on which King said to the gentleman, 'You must pay six guineas for it: we never sell for more, though the watch should be worth six-and-thirty.' The gentleman promised that the money should be left at the Dial, in Birch Lane.

On the 4th of May, 1737, Turpin was guilty of murder, which arose from the following circumstance:—A reward of a hundred pounds having been offered for apprehending him, one Thomas Morris, a servant of Mr. Thompson, one of the keepers of Epping Forest, accompanied by a higgler, set off in order to apprehend him. Turpin seeing them approach near his dwelling, Mr. Thompson's man having a gun, he mistook them for poachers; on which he said there were no hares near that thicket. 'No,' said Morris; 'but I have found a Turpin;' and, presenting his gun, required him to surrender.

Hereupon Turpin spoke to him as in a friendly manner, and gradually retreated at the same time, till, having seized his own gun, he shot him dead on the spot, and the higgler ran off with the utmost precipitation.

This murder being represented to the secretary of state, the following proclamation was issued by government, which we give a place to, from its describing the person of this notorious depredator:

'It having been represented to the king that Richard Turpin did, on Wednesday, the 4th of May last, barbarously murder Thomas Morris, servant to Henry Thomp-

son, one of the keepers of Epping Forest, and commit other notorious felonies and robberies near London, his majesty is pleased to promise his most gracious pardon to any of his accomplices, and a reward of two hundred pounds to any person or persons, that shall discover him, so that he may be apprehended and convicted. Turpin was born at Thackstead, in Essex; is about thirty, by trade a butcher, about five feet nine inches high, very much marked with the small-pox, his cheek-bones broad, his face thinner towards the bottom, his visage short, pretty upright, and broad about the shoulders.'

Turpin, to avoid the proclamation, went farther into the country in search of his old companion, King; and in the mean time sent a letter to his wife, to meet him at a public house at Hertford. The woman attended according to this direction; and her husband coming into the house soon after she arrived, a butcher, to whom he owed five pounds, happened to see him; on which he said, 'Come, Dick, I know you have money now; and, if you will pay me, it will be of great service.'

Turpin told him that his wife was in the next room; that she had money, and that he should be paid immediately; but, while the butcher was hinting to some of his acquaintance that the person present was Turpin, and that they might take him into custody after he had received his debt, the highwayman made his escape through a window, and rode off with great expedition.

Turpin having found King, and a man named Potter, who had lately connected himself with them, they set off towards London in the dusk of the evening; but, when they came near the Green Man, on

Epping Forest, they overtook a Mr. Major, who being mounted on a very fine horse, while Turpin's beast was jaded, the latter obliged him to dismount, and exchange.

The robbers now pursued their journey towards London; and Mr. Major, going to the Green Man, gave an account of the affair; on which it was conjectured that Turpin had been the robber, and that the horse which he exchanged must have been stolen.

It was on a Saturday evening that this robbery was committed; but, Mr. Major being advised to print hand-bills immediately, notice was given to the landlord of the Green Man that such a horse as Major had lost had been left at the Red Lion, in Whitechapel. The landlord, going thither, determined to wait till some person came for it; and, at about eleven at night, King's brother came to pay for the horse; and take him away; on which he was immediately seized; and conducted into the house.

Being asked what right he had to the horse, he said he had bought it; but the landlord, examining a whip which he had in his hand, found a button at the end of the handle half broken off, and the name of Major on the remaining half. Upon this he was given into the custody of a constable; but, as it was not supposed that he was the actual robber, he was told that he should have his liberty if he would discover his employer.

Hereupon he said that a stout man, in a white duffel coat, was waiting for the horse in Red Lion Street; on which the company, going thither, saw King, who drew a pistol, and attempted to fire it, but it flashed in the pan: he then endeavoured to pull out another pistol; but he could not, as it got entangled in his pocket.

At this time Turpin was watching at a small distance, and, riding towards the spot, King cried out, 'Shoot him, or we are taken;' on which Turpin fired, and shot his companion, who called out, 'Dick, you have killed me!' which the other hearing, rode off at full speed.

King lived a week after this affair, and gave information that Turpin might be found at a house near Hackney Marsh; and, on inquiry, it was discovered that Turpin had been there on the night that he rode off, lamenting that he had killed King, who was his most faithful associate.

For a considerable time did Turpin skulk about the forest, having been deprived of his retreat in the cave since he shot the servant of Mr. Thompson. On the examination of this cave there were found two shirts, two pair of stockings, a piece of ham, and part of a bottle of wine.

Some vain attempts were made to take this notorious offender into custody; and, among the rest, the huntman of a gentleman in the neighbourhood went in search of him with bloodhounds. Turpin perceiving them, and recollecting that King Charles II. evaded his pursuers under covert of the friendly branches of the oak, mounted one of those trees, under which the hounds passed, to his inexpressible terror, so that he determined to make a retreat into Yorkshire.

Going first to Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, he stole some horses, for which he was taken into custody, but escaped from the constable as he was conducting him before a magistrate, and hastened to Walton, in Yorkshire, where he went by the name of John Palmer, and assumed the character of a gentleman.

He now frequently went into

Lincolnshire, where he stole horses, which he brought into Yorkshire, and either sold or exchanged them.

He often accompanied the neighbouring gentlemen on their parties of hunting and shooting; and one evening, on a return from an expedition of the latter kind, he wantonly shot a cock belonging to his landlord. On this Mr. Hall, a neighbour, said, 'You have done wrong in shooting your landlord's cock;' to which Turpin replied, that, if he would stay while he loaded his gun, 'he would shoot him also.

Irritated by this insult, Mr. Hall informed the landlord of what had passed; and, application being made to some magistrates, a warrant was granted for the apprehension of the offender, who being taken into custody, and carried before a bench of justices, then assembled at the quarter-sessions, at Beverley, they demanded security for his good behaviour, which being unable or unwilling to give, he was committed to Bridewell.

On inquiry, it appeared that he made frequent journeys into Lincolnshire, on his return always abounding in money, and that he was likewise in possession of several horses, so that it was conjectured that he was a horse-stealer and a highwayman.

On this the magistrates went to him on the following day, and demanded who he was, where he had lived, and what was his employment? He replied, in substance, 'That about two years ago he had lived at Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, and was by trade a butcher: but that, having contracted several debts for sheep that proved rotten, he was obliged to abscond, and come to live in Yorkshire.'

The magistrates, not being satis-

fied with this tale, committed the clerk of the peace to write into Lincolnshire, to make the necessary inquiries respecting the subject John Palmer. The letter was carried by a special messenger brought an answer from a tradesman in the neighbourhood, intimating that John Palmer was known, though he had never been on trade there: that he had been accused of sheep-stealing, for he had been in custody, but made his escape from the officers: and that there were several informations lodged against him for horse-stealing.

Hereupon the magistrates thought it prudent to remove him to York Castle, where he had not been more than a month when two prisoners from Lincolnshire came and carried a mare and foal, and like a horse, which he had stolen in the county.

After he had been about three months in prison, he wrote the following letter to his brother in Essex:

'York, Feb. 6, 17

'Dear Brother,

'I am sorry to acquaint you that I am now under confinement in York Castle for horse-stealing. If I could procure an evidence in London to give me a character, I would go a great way towards being acquitted. I had no long time in this country before being apprehended, so that it will pass off the readier. For His sake, dear brother, do not trouble me; you will know what I mean when I say,

'I am yours,

'JOHN PALMER

This letter, being returned to the post-office in London, because the brother would not pay the postage of it, was accidentally seen by Mr. Smith, a school-

who, having taught Turpin to write, immediately knew his hand, on which he carried the letter to a magistrate, who broke it open, and it was thus discovered that the supposed John Palmer was the real Richard Turpin.

Hereupon the magistrates of Essex dispatched Mr. Smith to York, who immediately selected him from all the other prisoners in the Castle. This Mr. Smith, and another gentleman, afterwards proved his identity on his trial.

On the rumour that the noted Turpin was a prisoner in York Castle, persons flocked from all parts of the country to take a view of him, and debates ran high whether he was the real person or not. Among others who visited him was a young fellow who pretended to know the famous Turpin, and, having regarded him a considerable time with looks of great attention, he told the keeper he would bet him half a guinea that he was not Turpin; on which the prisoner, whispering the keeper, said 'Lay him the wager, and I'll go your halves.'

When this notorious malefactor was brought to trial, he was convicted on two indictments, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he wrote to his father, imploring him to intercede with a gentleman and lady of rank, to make interest that his sentence might be remitted, and that he might be transported. The father did what was in his power; but the notoriety of his character was such, that no persons would exert themselves in his favour.

This man lived in the most gay and thoughtless manner after conviction, regardless of all considerations of futurity, and affecting to make a jest of the dreadful fate that awaited him.

Not many days before his execu-

tion he purchased a new fustian frock and a pair of pumps, in order to wear them at the time of his death; and on the day before he hired five poor men, at ten-shillings each, to follow the cart as mourners: he gave hatbands and gloves to several other persons; and also left a ring, and some other articles, to a married woman in Lincolnshire, with whom he had been acquainted.

On the morning of his death he was put into a cart, and being followed by his mourners, as above mentioned, he was drawn to the place of execution, in his way to which he bowed to the spectators with an air of the most astonishing indifference and intrepidity.

When he came to the fatal tree he ascended the ladder; and, on his right leg trembling, he stamped it down with an air of assumed courage, as if he was ashamed to be observed to discover any signs of fear. Having conversed with the executioner about half an hour, he threw himself off the ladder, and expired in a few minutes. Turpin suffered at York, April 10, 1739.

The spectators of the execution seemed to be much affected at the fate of this man, who was distinguished by the comeliness of his appearance. The corpse was brought to the Blue Boar, in Castle Gate, York, where it remained till the next morning, when it was interred in the churchyard of St. George's parish, with an inscription on the coffin, bearing the initials of his name, and his age. The grave was made remarkably deep, and the people who acted as mourners took such measures as they thought would secure the body: yet, about three o'clock on the following morning, some persons were observed in the churchyard, who carried it off; and the populace, having an intima-

able spirit, his accomplices advised him to commence highwayman; but, none of them having money to purchase horses and other necessaries to equip them in a genteel manner, it was determined that two of the gang should commit a robbery which might put them in a way of committing others.

With this view they went into Kent and stole two horses, which they placed at a livery-stable near Moorfields; after which the gang went in a body to Welling, in Hertfordshire, where they broke open a house, and stole about fourteen pounds in money, and some other valuables, which furnished them with clothes and the other requisites for their intended expedition.

Thus provided, they rode to Enfield Chase, where they robbed the passengers in a stage-coach of their watches and money; and soon afterwards stopped another coach in the road to Epping Forest, from which they got a large booty, and divided it at their place of meeting in Brick Lane, Old Street, spending the night in licentious revelry.

But a short time had passed after this robbery when Caldcrough and one of his companions rode to Epping Forest; and, having stopped a coach in which were two gentlemen and a young lady, a servant that was behind the coach would have attacked the robbers, but that the gentlemen desired him to desist, that the young lady might not be terrified. The gentlemen then gave the robbers their money, apologizing for the smallness of the sum, and saying that they should have been welcome to more had it been in their possession.

As they were riding towards London, after committing this robbery, they quitted their horses, and fastened them to a tree, in order to rob the Woodford stage-coach,

which they observed to be full of passengers; but the coachman, suspecting their intent, drove off with such expedition that they could not overtake him.

Disappointed in this attempt, they rode towards Wanstead, where they saw another coach, the passengers in which they intended to have robbed; but, as a number of butchers from London rode close behind the carriage, they thought proper to desist from so dangerous an attempt.

Thus disappointed of the expected booty, Caldcrough and Thomas, on the following day, which was Sunday, rode to Stamford Hill, where they robbed three persons of their watches, and about four pounds in cash. Flushed with this success, they determined to put every person they should meet under contribution; in consequence of which they robbed seven persons more before they reached London, from whom they obtained about ten guineas, with which they retired to the old place of resort in Brick Lane.

Soon after this they rode to Finchley Common, where meeting with only empty carriages, they were returning to London, when they met the Barnet coach near Islington, and robbed the company of about fifteen shillings. On the following day they collected six shillings and sixpence from another of the Barnet coaches, and nine shillings from the Highgate stage, on their return to town; and this was the whole of the poor booty they obtained this day, at the imminent risk of their lives.

A few days afterwards Caldcrough and another of the gang stopped a person of very decent appearance near Hackney, and demanded his money; but the gentleman, bursting into tears, said he

was in circumstances of distress, and possessed only eighteen-pence; on which, instead of robbing him, they made him a present of half a crown; a proof that sentiments of humanity may not be utterly banished even from the breast of a thief. On their return to town they robbed a man of fourteen shillings, and then went to their old place of retreat.

On the day after this transaction they went to the Red Lion alehouse, in Aldersgate Street, where having drank all day, and being unable to pay the reckoning, they called for more liquor, and then quitted the house, saying that they would soon return. Going immediately towards Islington, they met a gentleman, to whom they said that they wanted a small sum to pay their reckoning. On this the gentleman called out 'Thieves!' and made all possible resistance; notwithstanding which they robbed him of a gold watch, which they carried to town and pawned, and then, going to the alehouse, defrayed the expenses of the day.

In a little time after this one of the gang sold the two horses which had been stolen as before mentioned, and appropriated the money to his own use; after which he went into the country, and spent some time with his relations; but, finding it difficult to abstain from his old practices, he wrote to Caldcrough, desiring he would meet him at St. Albans, where it was probable a good booty might be obtained.

Caldclough obeyed the summons; and, on his arrival, found that the scheme was to rob the pack-horses* belonging to the Coventry carrier. The man drinking at a house near

St. Albans, and permitting the horses to go forward, Caldcrough and his accomplice, who had hidden themselves behind a hedge, rushed out and stopped the horses; and, having robbed the packages to the amount of fifty pounds, carried their booty to London, where they disposed of it.

Having dissipated in extravagance the money acquired by this robbery, they went into Hertfordshire, to rob a gentleman whom they had learnt was possessed of a considerable sum. Getting into the yard near midnight, the owner of the house demanded what business they had there; to which they replied, 'Only to go through the yard;' whereupon the gentleman fired a gun, which, though it was loaded with powder only, terrified them so, that they decamped without committing the intended robbery.

Caldclough, and one of his accomplices named Robinson, being reduced to circumstances of distress, determined to make depredations on the road between London and Kensington. While they were looking out for prey, two gentlemen, named Swafford and Banks, were observed on the road behind them; but Mr. Swafford being at some distance before his companion, Caldcrough and Robinson, who were provided with hangers, robbed him of some silver; but not till they had first wounded him in a manner shocking to relate—they cut his nose almost from his face, and left him weltering in his blood.

Soon afterwards Mr. Banks came up, whom they robbed of five guineas, and then, hurrying towards Kensington, went over the fields to Chelsea, where they took a boat,

* The usual mode of conveying goods from one part of the kingdom to another was, formerly, by means of pack-horses; but this has given place to road-waggons and canals.

and crossed the Thames; and, walking to Lambeth, took another boat, which carried them to Westminster.

In the mean time Mr. Banks, who had missed his friend, proceeded to Kensington, where he made inquiry for him; but, finding that he had not reached that place, he was apprehensive that he might have been murdered; and, going back with a gentleman in search of him, they found him in the condition already described.

Mr. Swafford was immediately removed to the house of a surgeon, where proper care being taken of him, he recovered his health, after a long series of diligent attendance; but his wounds were of such a kind as totally to disfigure the features of his face, his nose having been cut so as to hang over his mouth.

The villains were taken into custody on the very day after the perpetration of this horrid deed, when Robinson being admitted an evidence against his accomplice, he was brought to trial at the next sessions, convicted, and received sentence of death.

After conviction Caldclough seemed to entertain no hopes of a pardon; but, appropriating all his time to contrition for the vices of his past life, prepared for futurity with all the zeal of one who appeared to be a sincere penitent.

He was executed at Tyburn, July

2, 1739, and made the following speech to the surrounding multitude:—

‘I humbly beg that all you young men whom I leave behind me would take warning in time, and avoid bad houses as well as bad company. Remember my dying words, lest some of you come to the same end, which I pray God you never may. What I am now going to suffer is the just punishment for my crimes; for, although I did not commit murder, yet I look upon myself equally guilty, as the poor gentleman must have died had he not met with assistance.

‘Were I able to make satisfaction to those whom I have wronged, I would do it; but, alas! I cannot, and therefore I pray that they will forgive me. I hope my life will be at least some satisfaction, as I have nothing besides to give: and, as I die in charity with all mankind, may the Lord Jesus receive my soul!’

In the case of this malefactor, as in that of many others, we have a striking instance how extremely penitent a man may be when his penitence can avail nothing to the injured party. We hope that those who read narratives of this kind will reflect that the true way to be happy is never to be guilty of such crimes as will lay them under the necessity of such ineffectual repentance.

EDWARD JOINES,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

THE parents of Edward Joines were respectable housekeepers in Ratcliffe Highway, who, being desirous that the boy should be qualified for business, placed him under the direction of a master of a day-school in Goodman's Fields, where he continued a regular attendant

about five years, but without making any considerable improvement.

Soon after he had completed his fourteenth year he was removed from the school, and his father informed him that he was endeavouring to find some reputable tradesman who would take him as an ap-

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prentice ; but the youth expressed an aversion to any occupation but that of a gardener. Finding that he had conceived a strong prepossession in favour of this business, they bound him to a gardener at Stepney, whom he served in an industrious and regular manner for the space of seven years ; and for some time afterwards continued with the same master in the capacity of a journeyman, his parents being so reduced through misfortunes that they could not supply him with money to carry on business on his own account.

A short time after the expiration of his apprenticeship he married a milk-woman, by whom he had seven children in the course of twenty years, during which time he lived in an amicable manner with his wife, earning a tolerable subsistence by honest industry.

His children all died in their infancy, and upon the decease of his wife he procured employment at Bromley ; and, that he might lose but little time in going to and returning from his work, he hired a lodging at the lower end of Poplar, in a house kept by a widow, with whom he in a few days contracted a criminal familiarity. They had lived together about a twelvemonth, jointly defraying the household expenses, when she more frequently than usual gave way to the natural violence of her temper, threatening that he should not continue in the house unless he would marry her ; which he consented to do, and, adjourning to the Fleet, the ceremony was performed.

After their marriage their disagreements became more frequent and violent ; and, upon the wife's daughter leaving her service, and coming to reside with them, she united with her mother in pursuing every measure that could tend to

render the life of Joines insupportably miserable. On his return from work one evening a disagreement, as usual, took place ; and, being aggravated by her abusive language, he pushed her from him, when, falling against the grate, her arm was much scorched. In consequence of this she swore the peace against him ; but, when they appeared before the magistrate who had granted the warrant for the apprehension of Joines, they were advised to compromise their disagreement, to which they mutually agreed.

By an accidental fall Mrs. Joines broke her arm, about a month after the above affair ; but, timely application being made to a surgeon, she in a short time had every reason to expect a perfect and speedy recovery.

Joines being at a public house on a Sunday afternoon, the landlord observed his daughter-in-law carrying a pot of porter from another alehouse, and mentioned the circumstance to him, adding, that the girl had been served with a like quantity at his house but a short time before. Being intoxicated, Joines took fire at what the publican had imprudently said, and immediately went towards his house, which was on the opposite side of the street, with an intention of preventing his wife from drinking the liquor. He struck the pot out of her hand, and then, seizing the arm that had been broken, twisted it till the bone again separated.

The fracture was a second time reduced ; but such unfavourable symptoms appeared, that an amputation was feared to be necessary for preserving the patient's life. In a short time afterwards, however, she was supposed to be in a fair way of recovery ; and, calling one day at the gardens where her hus-

band was employed, she told his fellow-labourers that she had great hopes of her arm being speedily cured; adding, that she was then able to move her fingers with but very little difficulty.

The hopes of this unfortunate woman were falsely grounded; for on the following day she was so ill, that her life was judged to be very precarious. She sent for Joines from his work; and, upon his coming to her bed-side, he asked if she had any accusation to allege against him; upon which, shaking her head, she said she would forgive him, and hoped the world would do so too. She expired the next night, and in the morning he gave some directions respecting the funeral, and then went to work in the gardens as usual, not entertaining the least suspicion that he should be accused as the cause of his wife's death; but, upon his return in the evening, he was apprehended on suspicion of murder.

An inquest being summoned to inquire whether the woman was murdered, or died according to the course of nature, it appeared in evidence that her death was occasioned by the second fracture of her arm: the jury, therefore, brought in a verdict of Wilful Murder against Joines, who was, in consequence, committed to Newgate, in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey Joines was arraigned on an indictment for the wilful murder of his wife. In the course of the trial it appeared that the prisoner had frequently forced the deceased into the street at late hours of the night, without regard to her being without clothes, or to the severity of the weather. The surgeon who attended her deposed *that a gangrene appeared on her arm. in consequence of its being*

broken the second time, which was indisputably the cause of her death.

Nearly three months had elapsed from the time of her arm being first broken to that of her decease; but not more than ten days had passed from the second fracture to the consequent mortification. The law expresses that if a person, violently wounded, dies within twelve calendar months, the offender causing such wound, or wounds, shall be deemed guilty of a capital felony. As it was evident that his wife died in consequence of his cruelty within the time limited by law, Joines was pronounced to be guilty of murder, and sentenced to suffer death.

During the confinement of Joines in Newgate he did not appear to entertain a proper sense of his guilt. As his wife did not die immediately after the second fracture of her arm, it was with difficulty he could be persuaded that the jury had done him justice in finding him guilty of murder. He had but a very imperfect notion of the principles of religion; but the Ordinary of the prison took great pains to inspire him with a just sense of his duty towards his Creator. Though he was distressed for all the necessities of life during the greatest part of his confinement, his daughter-in-law, who had taken possession of his house and effects, neglected either to visit him, or afford him any kind of assistance; and he was violently enraged against the young woman on account of this behaviour. Joines suffered along with Thomas Barkwith, Dec. 21, 1739.

The fate of this malefactor and his wife affords a striking lesson to teach the necessity of avoiding family dissensions, from which the most terrible effects are frequently known to arise. Mrs. Joines was a woman of violent passions, which, instead of endeavouring

to curb, she indulged to the utmost extravagance, though she could not be ignorant that during her paroxysms of rage her life was in

momentary danger from her husband, whose natural ferocity of disposition she increased by perpetual ill treatment.



Lympus stopping the Post-Boy on the Highway.

THOMAS LYMPUS,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBING THE MAIL.

From serving some years as a messenger to the General Post-office, this man formed the dangerous resolution of robbing the mails. At this time the vast property in circulation by means of the post was not, as at present, secured from being plundered by any lurking thief upon the road. Since the adoption of Mr. Palmer's plan of regulations it is nearly an impossibility to rob the mail.

On the 21st of February, 1738, this public plunderer began his depredations by stopping the post-boy bringing the Bath and Bristol mails, about seven o'clock in the

evening, at the end of Sunning Lane, two miles north of Reading, in Berkshire.

For the apprehension of the robber the postmaster-general offered a reward of two hundred pounds, over and above the sum allowed by act of parliament for apprehending highwaymen; or, if any accomplice in the said robbery should make a discovery of the person who committed the fact, such accomplice should be entitled to the reward of two hundred pounds, and also receive his majesty's most gracious pardon. The advertisement described the robber to be a middle-

sized man, wearing a great riding-coat, with a white velvet or plush cape.

No sooner had Lympus rifled the bags of their most valuable contents than he determined upon attempting to make his escape to France. For this purpose he hastened to the nearest sea-port, and actually landed there, but not before the officers of justice got information of his flight. They pursued him to France, and demanded him to be delivered up to them as a national robber; but, flying to the sanctuary of the church, and declaring himself a Roman Catholic, he received protection, and for a while evaded the offended laws of his own country.

There is often to be found in such as fly for a heinous crime, after some time passed abroad in safety, a desire to return, which in vain they struggle to suppress. Instances of this nature present themselves, where, after many years have expired since the commission of their crime, men have returned, and either surrendered, or placed themselves so as to favour their apprehension; which would really seem as though their minds would not permit them any peace in this world. So it was, in some measure, with the malefactor now recorded, who could not rest with his booty in France, but returned in a short time for farther plunder, and immediately committed another mail robbery, for which he was apprehended and brought to trial.

It appeared, by the evidence of the post-boy, that he was stopped between the towns of Crewkerne and Sherborne by the prisoner, on horseback, who compelled him to dismount, then bound him hand and foot, and rode off with the mail, containing twenty-four bags, from as many post-towns.

Having taken out the bank-notes, he again contemplated an escape to France, and for that purpose once more embarked; but the winds were no longer propitious to his hopes, for the vessel was driven back, and obliged to put into Dartmouth. Here he offered one of the stolen notes in payment, which being endorsed by one Follet, of Topsham, as described in the account of the robbery, he was suspected of being the robber. Apprehending himself to be in danger, he immediately decamped, and was making the best of his way towards Kingsbridge, but was pursued by seven men, who took him on a warrant being granted for that purpose. He was convicted of this robbery, and, after much equivocation, confessed, since sentence of death, having robbed the Bristol mail a little more than a year before, and impeached one Patrick, a dealer in hops, as his accomplice.

He was executed on the top of Dunkit Hill, within a mile of Wells, in Somersetshire, Sept. 21, 1739, and affected to die professing the religion he had adopted in France.

The security now given to our mail-coaches rendering an open attempt on them impracticable, unless sustained by a whole band of robbers, recourse has been frequently had to artifice in order to get possession of the mail. One of these tricks was thus played off with success.

It was customary to deposit the mail-bags at a private house in Castle Street, Reading, near to which the horses belonging to the mail were changed. The guard announced the approach of the mail to the inn by sounding his horn, and, whilst the horses were putting to, he went to the receiving-house to exchange his bags. A horn was

sounded in the street, quite late in the evening of the 26th of January, 1806, and soon after a man called for the downward bag, which was delivered to him, as usual, out of a window, and in return for which

he gave a bag, which was afterwards found to contain shavings. The robbery was discovered soon after by the arrival of the mail, but not till the villains had effected their escape.

THOMAS BARKWITH,

EXECUTED FOR HIS FIRST ROBBERY.

THIS unfortunate young gentleman was the descendant of a respectable family in the Isle of Ely. At a very early period of life he was observed to possess a strength of understanding greatly beyond what could be expected at his years, and his father was determined to add to these gifts of nature the advantages of a liberal education; nor was the necessary attention omitted to impress upon his mind a just idea of the principles of religion, and the absolute necessity of practical virtue.

Before young Barkwith arrived at his fourteenth year he had obtained a great proficiency in the Greek, Latin, French, and Italian languages; and afforded indisputable proof of the depth of his penetration and the brilliancy of his fancy in the production of a variety of poetical and prose essays. His figure was pleasing, and improved by a graceful deportment; his manner of address was insinuating, and he excelled in the art of conversation. It will then naturally be imagined that these qualifications, added to his extensive knowledge in the several branches of polite literature, could not fail to render him an object of esteem and admiration.

Soon after he had passed his fourteenth year he received an invitation to visit an aunt residing in the metropolis. He had not been many days at this lady's house before he became equally conspicuous, throughout the whole circle of her

acquaintance, on the score of his mental powers and personal qualifications; and he was dissuaded by his friends from returning into the country, it being their unanimous opinion that London was, of all others, the place where opportunities would be most likely to occur which the youth might improve to the advancement of his fortune.

A short time after his arrival in the metropolis he procured a recommendation to a Master in Chancery of high reputation and extensive practice; and this gentleman appointed him to the superintendence of that department of his business which related to money matters. In this office he acquitted himself entirely to the satisfaction of his employer, who considered him as a youth in whom he might safely repose an unlimited confidence. He possessed the particular esteem of all those who had the happiness of his acquaintance; and it was their common opinion that his fine talents, and great capacity for business, could not fail to introduce him to some considerable station in life.

The gentleman in whose service Barkwith had engaged being under the necessity of going into Wales on some business respecting an estate there, he commissioned Barkwith to receive the rents of a number of houses in London.

In the neighborhood of the solicitor lived a young lady of whom Barkwith had for some time been passionately enamoured; and, im-

mediately upon the departure of the former for Wales, he determined to avail himself of the first opportunity of making a declaration of honorable love.

Though the young lady did not mean to unite herself in marriage with Mr. Barkwith, yet she encouraged his addresses; and to this disingenuous conduct may be attributed the fatal reverse of his fortune, from the most flattering prospect of acquiring a respectable situation in the world to the dreadful consummation of suffering an ignominious death at Tyburn.

So entirely was his attention engrossed by the object of his love, that his master's most important business was wholly neglected; and he appeared to have no object in view but that of ingratiating himself into the esteem of his mistress; to gratify whose extravagance and vanity he engaged in expenses greatly disproportioned to his income, by making her valuable presents, and accompanying her to the theatres, balls, assemblies and other places of public entertainment. In short, he was continually proposing parties of pleasure; and she had too little discretion to reject such invitations as flattered the levity of her disposition, and yielded satisfaction to her immoderate fondness for scenes of gaiety.

Upon the return of the solicitor he found the affairs which he had intrusted to Barkwith in a very embarrassed situation; and, upon searching into the cause of this unexpected and alarming circumstance, it was discovered that the infatuated youth had embezzled a considerable sum. The gentleman, having made a particular inquiry into the conduct of Barkwith, received such intelligence as left but *little hopes* of his reformation; and therefore he, though reluctantly,

yielded to the dictates of prudence, and resolved to employ him no longer: but, having dismissed him from his service, he omitted no opportunity of showing him instances of kindness and respect; and generously used his endeavours to render him offices of friendship, and promote his interest on every occasion that offered.

Barkwith now hired chambers, in order to transact law business on his own account; but, as he had not been admitted an attorney, he was under the necessity of acting under the sanction of another person's name; whence it may be concluded that his practice was not very extensive. He might, however, by a proper attention to business, and a moderate economy in his expenses, have retrieved his affairs in a short time; but, unhappily, his intercourse with the young lady in question was still continued; and he thought no sacrifice too great for convincing her of the ardour of his affection.

He had resided at his chambers about six months, when, being arrested for a considerable sum, he put in bail to the action; and, though he paid the money before the writ became returnable, his credit received a terrible shock from the news of his late misfortune being circulated among his creditors, who had not hitherto entertained the least suspicion of his being under pecuniary difficulties: but they now became extremely importunate for him immediately to discharge their several demands.

Thus distressed, he made application to the persons whom he considered as his most valuable friends: but his hopes were disappointed, all he obtained amounting to a mere trifle; and what was particularly mortifying to him was the repulse he met with from several on whom

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he had conferred considerable obligations.

His necessities were so pressing as to drive him almost to desperation: but it must be observed that his greatest distress was occasioned by the reflection that he was no longer in a capacity to indulge his mistress in that perpetual succession of pleasurable amusements to which she had been so long familiarized. The idea that poverty would render him contemptible in the opinion of his acquaintance, and that he should be no longer able to gratify the inclinations of the object on whom his warmest affections were fixed, was too mortifying for the pride of Barkwith to endure; and therefore he determined upon a desperate expedient, by which he vainly imagined that he should be enabled to provide for some pressing exigencies, flattering himself that, before his expected temporary supply would be exhausted, a favorable turn would take place in his affairs, and remove every incitement to a repetition of guilt.

Barkwith took horse on the morning of the 13th of November, pretending that he was going to Denham, in Buckinghamshire, in order to transact some important business in relation to an estate which was to devolve to a young lady, then in her minority. It is not now known whether he went to Denham; but, about four o'clock in the afternoon, he stopped a carriage upon Hounslow Heath, and robbed a gentleman who was in it of a sum in silver not amounting to twenty shillings.

In a short time a horseman came up, whom the coachman informed that his master had been robbed by Barkwith, who was yet in sight. The horseman immediately rode to an adjacent farm-house, where he procured pistols, and persuaded a

person to accompany him in search of the highwayman, whom, in about a quarter of an hour, they overtook, being separated from him only by a hedge. The gentleman now, pointing a pistol at Barkwith, said if he did not surrender he would instantly shoot him; upon which the robber urged his horse to the creature's utmost speed, and continued to gain so much ground, that he would have escaped, had he not alighted to recover his hat, which had blown off: he regained the saddle; but, soon observing that the delay occasioned by dismounting had enabled his pursuers nearly to overtake him, he again quitted his horse, hoping to elude them by crossing the fields.

In order to facilitate his escape, he disencumbered himself of his great coat; but this circumstance raising the suspicion of some labouring people near the spot, they advanced to secure him, when he snapped two pistols at them; neither was loaded, but he thought the sight of fire-arms might perhaps deter the countrymen from continuing their pursuit. His spirits being violently agitated, his strength nearly exhausted, and there appearing but little probability of effecting an escape, he at length surrendered, saying to the people who surrounded him that he was a gentleman heavily oppressed with misfortunes, and supplicating in the most pathetic terms that they would favour his escape; but his entreaties had no effect.

He was properly secured during that night, and the next morning conducted before a magistrate for examination. He was ordered to London, where he was re-examined, and then committed to Newgate.

He was tried at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, and condemned to suffer death.

remained in Newgate he conducted himself in a manner perfectly consistent with his unhappy circumstances: his unassuming and quiet behaviour secured him from the insults of his fellow-prisoners; and upon such of them as were not absolutely callous to the stings of conscience the sincerity of his repentance had a favorable effect.

He was conveyed to Tyburn on the 21st of December, 1739. He prayed to Almighty God with great fervency, and exhorted young people carefully to avoid engaging in expenses disproportioned to their incomes; saying that the perpetrator of villainy, however successful, was continually in a state of insupportable misery, through the silent upbraidings of an internal monitor; and that, though justice might be for a time eluded, imagination never failed to anticipate all the horrors attendant on public ignominy and a violent death.

A false pride seems to have been the distinguishing characteristic of the unhappy youth who is the subject of the above narrative. He could not condescend to abridge his usual expenses, lest his mistress should suspect his liberality. Had he candidly explained to her the state of his affairs, it is more than probable that she would have declined the expectation of being indulged in expensive amusements; but, had she persisted in her unreasonable desires, he would have been relieved from the infatuation of an ill-placed affection; for he was a man of too much discernment to remain the dupe of a woman avowedly acting from mercenary principles, and consequently destitute of those sentiments of tenderness and delicacy which are inseparable from real love—a passion that cannot exist independent of an anxious solicitude for the happiness of its object.

It is to be lamented that, when we have once entered the path of vice, something in our nature impels us to go forward with a force that, to be successfully opposed, requires an uncommon effort of resolution. Doctor Goldsmith says, 'That single effort, by which we stop short in the down-hill path to perdition, is itself a greater exertion of virtue than a hundred acts of justice.'

Let not the most flattering prospect of present convenience tempt us to hazard the slightest imputation on our integrity; for, by familiarity, the hideous aspect of Vice will cease to be disgusting. Who can listen to her dictates, and with safety say, 'So far will I go, and no farther?'

We here take the liberty of surprising the younger part of our female readers of the terrible consequences that may ensue from encouraging extravagance in youth of the other sex. During the time of courtship the lady expects to be occasionally complimented with presents, and to partake of the fashionable amusements. If her lover is in a dependent situation, it is necessary that she should exercise the virtue of self-denial, by rejecting his invitations, if there appears the least ground for an apprehension that a compliance would incur an expense too considerable for his income to afford. Almost every consideration must of necessity yield to the pleasing task of contributing to the satisfaction of an admired object. Pride will seldom permit us to acknowledge poverty; and, rather than labour under the suspicion of avarice, the severity of virtue may relax, and a generous mind may, by the violence of passion, be precipitated beyond the bounds of discretion, and involved in irretrievable destruction.

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MARY YOUNG, *ALIAS* JENNY DIVER,

EXECUTED FOR STREET ROBBERY.

WE cannot expect to present to our readers a character more skilled in the various arts of imposition and robbery than that of Mary Young. Her depredations, executed with the courage of a man and the softer deceptions of an artful female, surpass any thing which we have as yet come to, in our researches into crimes and punishments.

Mary Young was born in the north of Ireland: her parents were in indigent circumstances; and they dying while she was in a state of infancy, she had no recollection of them.

At about ten years of age she was taken into the family of an ancient gentlewoman, who had known her father and mother, and who caused her to be instructed in reading, writing, and needle-work; and in the latter she attained to a proficiency unusual to girls of her age.

Soon after she had arrived at her fifteenth year, a young man, servant to a gentleman who lived in the same neighborhood, made pretensions of love to her; but the old lady, being apprized of his views, declared that she would not consent to their marriage, and positively forbade him to repeat his visits at her house.

Notwithstanding the great care and tenderness with which she was treated, Mary formed the resolution of deserting her generous benefactor, and of directing her course towards the metropolis of England; and the only obstacle to this design was the want of money for her support till she could follow some honest means of earning a subsistence.

She had no strong prepossession

in favour of the young man who had made a declaration of love to her; but, determining to make his passion subservient to the purpose she had conceived, promised to marry him on condition of his taking her to London. He joyfully embraced this proposal, and immediately engaged for a passage in a vessel bound for Liverpool.

A short time before the vessel was to sail the young man robbed his master of a gold watch and eighty guineas, and then joined the companion of his flight, who was already on board the ship, vainly imagining that his infamously acquired booty would contribute to the happiness he should enjoy with his expected bride. The ship arrived at the destined port in two days; and Mary being indisposed in consequence of her voyage, her companion hired a lodging in the least frequented part of the town, where they lived a short time in the character of man and wife, but avoiding all intercourse with their neighbours, the man being apprehensive that measures would be pursued for rendering him amenable to justice.

Mary being restored to health, they agreed for a passage in a waggon that was to set out for London in a few days. On the day preceding that fixed for their departure they accidentally called at a public house, and the man being observed by a messenger dispatched in pursuit of him from Ireland, he was immediately taken into custody. Mary, who, a few hours before his apprehension, had received ten guineas from him, voluntarily accompanied him to the mayor's house, where he acknowledged himself guilty of the crime

alleged against him, but without giving the least intimation that she was an accessory in his guilt. He being committed to prison, Mary sent him all his clothes, and part of the money she had received from him, and the next day took her place in the waggon for London. In a short time her companion was sent to Ireland, where he was tried, and condemned to suffer death; but his sentence was changed to that of transportation.

Soon after her arrival in London Mary contracted an acquaintance with one of her countrywomen, named Anne Murphy, by whom she was invited to partake of a lodging in Long Acre. Here she endeavored to obtain a livelihood by her needle; but, not being able to procure sufficient employment, in a little time her situation became truly deplorable.

Murphy intimated to her that she could introduce her to a mode of life that would prove exceedingly lucrative; adding, that the most profound secrecy was required. The other expressed an anxious desire of learning the means of extricating herself from the difficulties under which she labored, and made a solemn declaration that she would never divulge what Murphy should communicate. In the evening, Murphy introduced her to a number of men and women, assembled in a kind of club, near St. Giles's. These people gained their living by cutting off women's pockets, and stealing watches, &c. from men, in the avenues of the theatres, and at other places of public resort; and, on the recommendation of Murphy, they admitted Mary a member of the society.

After Mary's admission they dispersed, in order to pursue their illegal occupation; and the booty obtained that night consisted of

eighty pounds in cash, and a valuable gold watch. As Mary was not yet acquainted with the art of thieving, she was not admitted to an equal share of the night's produce; but it was agreed that she should have ten guineas. She now regularly applied two hours every day in qualifying herself for an expert thief, by attending to the instructions of experienced practitioners; and, in a short time, she was distinguished as the most ingenious and successful adventurer of the whole gang.

A young fellow of genteel appearance, who was a member of the club, was singled out by Mary as the partner of her bed; and they cohabited for a considerable time as husband and wife.

In a few months our heroine became so expert in her profession as to acquire great consequence among her associates, who, as we conceive, distinguished her by the appellation of Jenny Diver on account of her remarkable dexterity; and by that name we shall call her in the succeeding pages of this narrative.

Jenny, accompanied by one of her female accomplices, joined the crowd at the entrance of a place of worship in the Old Jewry, where a popular divine was to preach, and, observing a young gentleman with a diamond ring on his finger, she held out her hand, which he kindly received in order to assist her: at this juncture she contrived to get possession of the ring without the knowledge of the owner; after which she slipped behind her companion, and heard the gentleman say, that, as there was no probability of gaining admittance, he would return. Upon his leaving the meeting he missed his ring, and mentioned his loss to the persons who were near him, adding that he

suspected it to be stolen by a woman whom he had endeavored to assist in the crowd ; but, as the thief was unknown, she escaped.

The above robbery was considered as such an extraordinary proof of Jenny's superior address, that her associates determined to allow her an equal share of all their booties, even though she was not present when they were obtained.

In a short time after the above exploit she procured a pair of false hands and arms to be made, and concealed her real ones under her clothes ; she then, putting something beneath her stays to make herself appear as if in a state of pregnancy, repaired on a Sunday evening to the place of worship above mentioned in a sedan chair, one of the gang going before to procure a seat among the genteeler part of the congregation, and another attending in the character of a footman.

Jenny being seated between two elderly ladies, each of whom had a gold watch by her side, she conducted herself with great seeming devotion ; but, the service being nearly concluded, she seized the opportunity, when the ladies were standing up, of stealing their watches, which she delivered to an accomplice in an adjoining pew. The devotions being ended, the congregation were preparing to depart, when the ladies discovered their loss, and a violent clamour ensued. One of the injured parties exclaimed 'That her watch must have been taken either by the devil or the pregnant woman !' on which the other said, 'She could vindicate the pregnant lady, whose hands she was sure had not been removed from her lap during the whole time of her being in the pew.'

Flushed with the success of the above adventure, our heroine de-

termined to pursue her good fortune ; and, as another sermon was to be preached the same evening, she adjourned to an adjacent public house, where, without either pain or difficulty, she soon reduced the protuberance of her waist, and, having entirely changed her dress, she returned to the meeting, where she had not remained long before she picked a gentleman's pocket of a gold watch, with which she escaped unsuspected.

Her accomplices also were industrious and successful ; for, on a division of the booty obtained this evening, they each received thirty guineas. Jenny had now obtained an ascendancy over the whole gang, who, conscious of her superior skill in the arts of thieving, came to a resolution of yielding an exact obedience to her directions.

Jenny again assumed the appearance of a pregnant woman, and, attended by an accomplice as a footman, went towards St. James's Park on a day when the king was going to the House of Lords ; and, there being a great number of persons between the Park and Spring Gardens, she purposely slipped down, and was instantly surrounded by many of both sexes, who were emulous to afford her assistance ; but, affecting to be in violent pain, she intimated to them that she was desirous of remaining on the ground till she should be somewhat recovered. As she expected, the crowd increased, and her pretended footman, and a female accomplice, were so industrious as to obtain two diamond girdle-buckles, a gold watch, a gold snuff-box, and two purses, containing together upwards of forty guineas.

The girdle-buckles, watch, and snuff-box, were the following day advertised, a considerable reward was offered, and a promise given

that no questions should be asked the party who should restore the property. Anna Murphy offered to carry the things to the place mentioned in the advertisement, saying the reward offered exceeded what they would produce by sale : but to this Jenny objected, observing that she might be traced, and the association utterly ruined. She called a meeting of the whole gang, and informed them that she was of opinion that it would be more prudent to sell the things, even at one half of their real value, than to return them to the owners for the sake of the reward ; as, if they pursued the latter measure, they would subject themselves to great hazard of being apprehended. Her associates coincided entirely in Jenny's sentiments, and the property was taken to Duke's Place, and there sold to a Jew.

Two of the gang being confined to their lodgings by illness, Jenny, and the man with whom she cohabited, generally went in company in search of adventures. They went together to Burr Street, Wapping, and, observing a genteel house, the man, who acted as Jenny's footman, knocked at the door, and, saying that his mistress was on a sudden taken extremely ill, begged she might be admitted : this was readily complied with, and, while the mistress of the house and her maid-servant were gone up stairs for such things as they imagined would afford relief to the supposed sick woman, she opened a drawer, and stole sixty guineas ; and after this, while the mistress was holding a smelling-bottle to her nose, she picked her pocket of a purse, which, however, did not contain money to any considerable amount. In the mean time the pretended footman, who had been ordered into the kitchen, stole six silver table-spoons, a pep-

per-box, and a salt-cellar. Jenny, pretending to be somewhat recovered, expressed the most grateful acknowledgments to the lady, and, saying she was the wife of a capital merchant in Thames Street, invited her in the most pressing terms to dinner on an appointed day, and then went away in a hackney-coach, which, by her order, had been called to the door by her pretended servant.

She practised a variety of felonies of a similar nature in different parts of the metropolis and its environs ; but the particulars of the above transaction being inserted in the newspapers, people were so effectually cautioned, that our adventurer was under the necessity of employing her invention upon the discovery of other methods of committing depredations on the public.

The parties whose illness we have mentioned being recovered, it was resolved that the whole gang should go to Bristol, in search of adventures, during the fair which is held in that city every summer ; but, being unacquainted with the place, they deemed it good policy to admit into their society a man who had long subsisted there by villainous practices.

Being arrived at the place of destination, Jenny and Murphy assumed the characters of merchants' wives, the new member and another of the gang appeared as country traders, and our heroine's favorite retained his former character of footman. They took lodgings at different inns, and agreed that, if any of them should be apprehended, the others should endeavor to procure their release by appearing to their characters, and representing them as people of reputation in London. They had arrived at such a proficiency in their illegal occupation, that they were almost cer-

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tain of accomplishing every scheme they suggested ; and, when it was inconvenient to make use of words, they were able to convey their meaning to each other by winks, nods, and other intimations.

Being one day in the fair, they observed a west-country clothier giving a sum of money to his servant, and heard him direct the man to deposit it in a bureau. They followed the servant, and one of them fell down before him, expecting that he would also fall, and that, as there was a great crowd, the money might be easily secured. Though the man fell into the snare, they were not able to obtain their expected booty, and therefore had recourse to the following stratagem : one of the gang asked whether his master had not lately ordered him to carry home a sum of money ; to which the other replied in the affirmative : the sharper then told him he must return to his master, who had purchased some goods, and waited to pay for them.

The countryman followed him to Jenny's lodging, and, being introduced to her, she desired him to be seated, saying his master was gone on some business in the neighborhood, but had left orders for him to wait till his return. She urged him to drink a glass of wine, but the poor fellow repeatedly declined her offers with awkward simplicity, the pretended footman having taught him to believe her a woman of great wealth and consequence. However, her encouraging solicitations conquered his bashfulness, and he drank till he became intoxicated. Being conducted into another apartment, he was soon fast locked in the arms of sleep, and, while in that situation, he was robbed of the money he had received from his master, which proved to be a hundred pounds. They were no sooner

in possession of the cash, than they discharged the demand of the innkeeper, and set out in the first stage for London.

Soon after their return to town Jenny and her associates went to London Bridge in the dusk of the evening, and, observing a lady standing at a door to avoid the carriages, a number of which were passing, one of the men went up to her, and, under pretence of giving her assistance, seized both her hands, which he held till his accomplices had rifled her pockets of a gold snuff-box, a silver case containing a set of instruments, and thirty guineas in cash.

On the following day, as Jenny, and an accomplice, in the character of a footman, were walking through Change Alley, she picked a gentleman's pocket of a bank-note for two hundred pounds, for which she received one hundred and thirty from a Jew, with whom the gang had very extensive connexions.

Our heroine now hired a real footman ; and her favorite, who had long acted in that character, assumed the appearance of a gentleman. She hired lodgings in the neighborhood of Covent Garden, that she might more conveniently attend the theatres. She proposed to her associates to reserve a tenth part of the general produce for the support of such of the gang as might, through illness, be rendered incapable of following their iniquitous occupations ; and to this they readily assented.

Jenny dressed herself in an elegant manner, and went to the theatre one evening when the king was to be present ; and, during the performance, she attracted the particular attention of a young gentleman of fortune from Yorkshire, who declared, in the most passionate terms, that she had made an abso-

lute conquest of his heart, and earnestly solicited the favour of attending her home. She at first declined a compliance, saying she was newly married, and that the appearance of a stranger might alarm her husband. At length she yielded to his entreaty, and they went together in a hackney-coach, which set the young gentleman down in the neighborhood where Jenny lodged, after he had obtained an appointment to visit her in a few days, when she said her husband would be out of town.

Upon Jenny's joining her companions, she informed them that while she remained at the play-house she was only able to steal a gold snuff-box, and they appeared to be much dissatisfied on account of her ill success; but their good humour returned upon learning the circumstances of the adventure with the young gentleman, which they had no doubt would prove exceedingly profitable.

The day of appointment being arrived, two of the gang appeared equipped in elegant liveries, and Anne Murphy acted as waiting-maid. The gentleman came in the evening, having a gold-headed cane in his hand, a sword with a gold hilt by his side, and wearing a gold watch in his pocket, and a diamond ring on his finger.

Being introduced to her bed-chamber, she contrived to steal her lover's ring; and he had not been many minutes undressed before Anne Murphy rapped at the door, which being opened, she said, with an appearance of the utmost consternation, that her master was returned from the country. Jenny, affecting to be under a violent agitation of spirits, desired the gentleman to cover himself entirely with the bed-clothes, saying she would convey his apparel into another

room, so that, if her husband came there, nothing would appear to awaken his suspicion; adding, that under pretence of indisposition she would prevail upon her husband to sleep in another bed, and then return to the arms of her lover.

The clothes being removed, a consultation was held, when it was agreed by the gang that they should immediately pack up all their moveables, and decamp with their booty, which, exclusive of the cane, watch, sword, and ring, amounted to a hundred guineas.

The amorous youth waited in a state of the utmost impatience till morning, when he rang the bell, which brought the people of the house to the chamber-door; but they could not gain admittance, the fair fugitive having turned the lock, and taken away the key; but, the door being forced open, an eclairsissement ensued. The gentleman represented in what manner he had been treated; but the people of the house were deaf to his expostulations, and threatened to circulate the adventure throughout the town unless he would indemnify them for the loss they had sustained. Rather than hazard the exposure of his character he agreed to discharge the debt Jenny had contracted; and dispatched a messenger for clothes and money, that he might take leave of a house of which he had sufficient reason to regret having been a temporary inhabitant.

Our heroine's share of the produce of the above adventure amounted to seventy pounds. This infamous association was now become so notorious a pest to society, that they judged it necessary to leave the metropolis, where they were apprehensive they could not long remain concealed from justice. They practised a variety of stratagems with great success in different

parts of the country; but, upon re-visiting London, Jenny was committed to Newgate on a charge of having picked a gentleman's pocket; for which she was sentenced to transportation.

She remained in the above prison nearly four months, during which time she employed a considerable sum in the purchase of stolen effects. When she went on board the transport-vessel, she shipped a quantity of goods nearly sufficient to load a waggon. The property she possessed ensured her great respect, and every possible convenience and accommodation during the voyage; and, on her arrival in Virginia, she disposed of her goods, and for some time lived in great splendour and elegance.

She soon found that America was a country where she could expect but little emolument from the practices she had so successfully followed in England; and therefore she employed every art she was mistress of to ingratiate herself into the esteem of a young gentleman who was preparing to embark on board a vessel bound for the port of London. He became much enamoured of her, and brought her to England; but, while the ship lay at Gravesend, she robbed him of all the property she could get into her possession, and, pretending indisposition, intimated a desire of going on shore, in which her admirer acquiesced; but she was no sooner on land than she made a precipitate retreat.

She now travelled through several parts of the country, and by her usual wicked practices obtained many considerable sums. At length she returned to London, but was not able to find her former accomplices.

She now frequented the Royal Exchange, the theatres, London Bridge, and other places of public

resort, and committed innumerable depredations on the public. Being detected in picking a gentleman's pocket on London Bridge, she was taken before a magistrate, to whom she declared that her name was Jane Webb, and by that appellation she was committed to Newgate.

On her trial, a gentleman, who had detected her in the very act of picking the prosecutor's pocket, deposed that a person had applied to him, offering fifty pounds, on condition that he should not appear in support of the prosecution: and a lady swore that, on the day she committed the offence for which she stood indicted, she saw her pick the pockets of more than twenty different people. The record of her former conviction was not produced in Court; and, therefore, she was arraigned for privately stealing; and, on the clearest evidence, the jury pronounced her guilty. The property being valued at less than one shilling, she was sentenced to transportation.

A twelvemonth had not elapsed before she returned from transportation a second time; and, on her arrival in London, renewed her former practices.

A lady going from Sherborne Lane to Walbrook was accosted by a man, who took her hand, seemingly as if to assist her in crossing some planks that were placed over the gutter for the convenience of passengers; but he squeezed her fingers with so much force as to give her great pain, and in the mean time Jenny picked her pocket of thirteen shillings and a penny. The gentlewoman, conscious of being robbed, seized the thief by the gown, and she was immediately conducted to the Compter. She was examined the next day by the lord mayor, who committed her to Newgate in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey she was tried on an indictment for privately stealing, and the jury brought in the verdict 'Guilty;' in consequence of which she received sentence of death.

After conviction Jenny seemed sincerely to repent of the course of iniquity in which she had so long persisted, punctually attending prayers in the chapel, and employing great part of her time in private devotions. The day preceding that on which she was executed she sent for the woman who nursed her child, then about three years old, and, after informing her that there was a person who would pay for the infant's maintenance, earnestly entreated that it might be carefully instructed in the duties of religion, and guarded from all temptations to wickedness; and then, acknowledging that she had long been a daring offender against the laws both of God and man, and entreating the woman to pray for the salvation of her soul, she bade her farewell, apparently deeply impressed with the sentiments of contrition.

On the following morning she appeared to be in a serene state of mind; but, being brought into the press-yard, the executioner approached to put the halter about her, when her fortitude abated: in a short time, however, her spirits became again tolerably composed.

She was conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning-coach on the 18th of March, 1740, being attended by a clergyman, to whom she declared her firm belief in all the principles of the Protestant religion.

At the place of execution, having employed a considerable time in fervent prayer, her life was resigned a sacrifice to those laws which she had most daringly violated; and her remains were, by her own par-

ticular desire, interred in St. Pancras churchyard.

We may, perhaps, fix the most dangerous period of life to be between the years of sixteen and twenty. As we approach towards maturity we grow impatient of control, regardless of all advice that does not flatter the prevailing humour, and direct all our attention to a state of independence, which youthful imagination represents as the summit of human felicity, where no inconvenience can obtrude but such as may, without difficulty, be repelled by the mere efforts of our own resolution.

The advice of a parent sinks into the mind with double weight; but we should allow the due force to such as is offered by those who are unconnected with us in the ties of blood. If the conduct that is recommended to us points to the happiness of life, what folly is it to submit to the suggestions of idle inclination, the indulgence of which can yield but a slight and temporary gratification, and may, perhaps, prove the source of severe and lasting regret!

There are those who censure the laws of these kingdoms as being of too sanguinary a complexion. Be it admitted that there is something extremely dreadful in the idea of depriving a fellow-creature of existence at a time when the weight of his sins is sufficient, without the Divine assistance, to sink him into everlasting perdition: but, as partial favour must always give way to considerations for the public good, it should be remembered that the lives of individuals are not sacrificed so much for the sake of punishing them for the offences of which they have been guilty, as with a view of making them examples for the discontinuance of vice. Justice may for a time be eluded, and no inco-

venience may have been sustained by the injured party, who, though entertaining no private animosity, nay, even tenderly compassionating the offender, will be induced, by his regard to the public, to enforce the law. How dangerous, then, must be the situation of those who have been guilty of acts of delinquency! The dread of a violent and disgraceful death, together with all the horrors of conscious guilt, must continually rush upon their minds, and render them miserable beyond the power of expression.

Persons who, having infringed the laws of their country, are committed to prison, too frequently are known to employ their time in a very unprofitable manner. How can this conduct be accounted for but by supposing that they cherish the expectation of an acquittal? No circumstances in life are so desperate as to exclude the hope of a favorable change of fortune. In sup-

port of this assertion it need only be said, that scarce an instance can be produced where the most notorious offender has, even at the place of execution, declined all thoughts of a reprieve.

To consider the terrible situation of a condemned prisoner must unquestionably prove distressing, in a peculiar degree, to a humane mind. The unhappy object stands tottering on the verge of eternity, and the dreadful prospect wholly incapacitates him for making that preparation which is necessary to so important a change; for it is a reasonable supposition that, under such alarming circumstances, the mind must be so violently agitated as to be deprived of the power of exerting its usual functions; and there is too much cause to apprehend that, when repentance is thus long delayed, there will be but a feeble support for the hope of its efficacy.

WILLIAM DUELL,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER, WHO CAME TO LIFE AGAIN WHILE PREPARING FOR DISSECTION IN SURGEONS' HALL.

THIS man met a better fate than a criminal in a similar situation in Germany. The body of a notorious malefactor was stretched out upon the table, before an assembly of German surgeons, for dissection. The operator, in placing it in a proper position, felt life in it; whereupon he thus addressed his brethren of the faculty, met to witness the operation:

'I am pretty certain, gentlemen, from the warmth of the subject, and the flexibility of the limbs, that by a proper degree of attention and care the vital heat would return, and life in consequence take place. But when it is considered what a rascal we should again have among us, that he was hanged for so cruel

a murder, and that, should we restore him to life, he would probably kill somebody else:—I say, gentlemen, all these things considered, it is my opinion that we had better proceed in the dissection.' Whether this harangue, or the fear of being disappointed in so sumptuous a surgical banquet, operated on their consciences, we cannot tell; but, certain it is, they nodded accordance; and the operator, on the signal, plunged his knife into the breast of the culprit, thereby at once precluding all dread of future assassinations—all hopes of future repentance.

Duell was convicted of occasioning the death of Sarah Griffin, at Acton, by robbing and ill-treating

her. Having suffered Nov. 24, 1740, at Tyburn, his body was brought to Surgeons' Hall to be anatomized; but, after it was stripped and laid on the board, and while one of the servants was washing him, in order to be cut, he perceived life in him, and found his breath to come quicker and quicker,

on which a surgeon took some ounces of blood from him; in two hours he was able to sit up in his chair, and in the evening was committed to Newgate; and his sentence (which might have been again inflicted) was changed to transportation.

WILLIAM CREAK,

EXECUTED FOR MAIL ROBBERY.

WE have already observed that this species of public robbery was formerly, though never pardoned after conviction, very common. It is now matter of surprise to reflect that such vast property as always has been remitted by post-letters should have been so insecurely guarded in its conveyance. A lad with the mail behind him often carried thousands of pounds, through lonely roads, in the dead hour of the night. Hence, where there could be no resistance, every lurking cowardly thief was able to take the mail at his pleasure; but, happily, the disposal of the plunder seldom failed of leading to a discovery of the perpetrator.

When the unfortunate man who is the subject of the present report was tempted to swerve from the paths of honesty, in robbing the mail, he was a linen-draper of good repute at Henley-upon-Thames. He married the sister of one Kitson, a maltster of the same town, by whom, it appears, he was seduced to commit the robbery; and who then, having received a part of the plunder, basely impeached, and brought him to an ignominious death. We say basely; for, though the public received benefit from the information of Kitson, yet cannot we divest ourselves of detestation of such individual treachery.

In consequence of this information a warrant was issued for the

apprehension of Creak, who had repaired to London with the remainder of the bank-notes, in order to pass them away. After considerable search, he was taken in the borough of Southwark, in the very act of putting off some of the stolen notes in payment for linens; and, when he found that he was apprehended, he stuffed the remainder into his mouth, and actually swallowed them before they could be recovered.

He was indicted at the assizes held at Kingston for the county of Surrey, in the month of August, 1740, convicted of robbing the Western and Portsmouth mails, and was executed, much lamented, on Bagshot Heath, and his body afterwards hung in chains, on the spot where he committed the robbery.

This man, though his offence was of so heinous a kind, may claim some compassion from the feeling reader. He had a large family, bore an excellent character among his neighbours, and his credit was still good with his merchants in London.

Unsuspecting in nature, he had trusted others to a considerable amount, and was deceived in promises of payment. We could here wish tradesmen to adhere to the adage—'Better to cry over their goods than to cry after them.' It also appeared that this was the only piece of iniquity in which he had been concerned.

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Mrs. Branch and her Daughter cruelly beating Jane Butternorth.

ELIZABETH AND MARY BRANCH, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THESE cruel women were born at Phillips-Norton, in Somersetshire. The mother was distinguished from her childhood by the barbarity of her disposition, which increased with her years, and discovered itself on various occasions, particularly in fomenting divisions among her father's servants, to render whom unhappy appeared to be one of the greatest pleasures of her life.

Her parents, observing with regret this ferocity of temper, told her that she would never get a husband unless she changed her conduct. This seemed for a while to have some influence on her, which gave great satisfaction to her parents; but it will appear from the following narrative that this influence was not lasting.

Being addressed by a neighbor-

ing farmer, named Branch, a marriage took place; but the husband soon found what an unfortunate choice he had made; for his wife no sooner came into possession of her matrimonial power than she began to exercise her tyranny on her servants, whom she treated with undeserved and unaccountable cruelty, frequently denying them the common necessities of life, and sometimes turning them out of doors at night, in the midst of winter; but their wages in these cases were sent them by Mr. Branch, who was as remarkable for his humanity and justice as his wife was for the opposite qualities. Mary Branch, the daughter, was an exact resemblance of her mother in every part of her diabolical temper.

Mr. Branch dying, and leaving

an estate of about three hundred pounds a year, he was no sooner buried than all the servants quitted the family, determined not to live with so tyrannical a mistress; and her character became so notorious that she could obtain no servants but poor creatures who were put out by the parish, or casual vagrants who strolled the country.

It is needless to mention the particulars of the cruelties of this inhuman mother and daughter to such servants as they could procure, at whom they used to throw plates, knives, and forks, on any offence, real or supposed; we shall therefore proceed to an account of their trial and execution for the murder of Jane Buttersworth, a poor girl who had been placed with them by the parish officers.

At the assizes held at Taunton, in Somersetshire, in March, 1740, Elizabeth Branch, and Mary, her daughter, were indicted for the wilful murder of Jane Buttersworth; the principal evidence against them being in substance as follows:

Ann Somers, the dairy-maid, deposed that the deceased, having been sent for some yeast, and staying longer than was necessary, excused herself to her old mistress, on her return, by telling a lie; on which the daughter struck her violently on the head with her fist, and pinched her ears. Then both of them threw her on the ground, and the daughter kneeled on her neck, while the mother whipped her with twigs till the blood ran on the ground; and the daughter, taking off one of the girl's shoes, beat her with it in a cruel manner. The deceased cried for mercy, and, after some struggles, ran into the parlour, whither they followed her, and beat her with broomsticks till she fell down senseless; after which the daughter threw a pail of water

on her, and used her with other circumstances of cruelty too gross to mention.

Somers now went out to milk the cows, and on her return, at the expiration of half an hour, found her mistress sitting by the fire, and the girl lying dead on the floor; but she observed that a clean cap had been put on her head since she went out, and that the blood had run through it.

Saying she believed the girl was dead, the old mistress gave her abusive language; and the deceased being put to bed, Somers was ordered to lie with her; which she was obliged to comply with, in the fear of being treated in a manner equally cruel. Somers was not suffered to go out on the following day; and at night the body was privately buried.

This transaction, added to the character of the mistress, having raised a suspicion in the neighborhood, a warrant was issued by the coroner to take up the body; and, an inquest being made into the cause of the girl's death, Mr. Salmon, a surgeon, declared that she had received several wounds, almost any one of which would have proved mortal.

The defence made by the prisoners on their trial was, that the prosecution was malicious; for that the deceased had been subject to fits, in one of which she fell down, and received the bruises which occasioned her death; but, bringing no proofs in support of this allegation, the jury found them guilty, and they were sentenced to die.

After conviction they entertained great hopes of pardon, and presented a petition to the judge; but all the favour they could obtain was a respite for five weeks, in consideration that Mrs. Branch might have some temporal affairs to settle.

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The mother appeared for some time little concerned under her misfortunes; but the daughter lamented her unhappy fate, and begged the prayers of every one whom she saw.

A sermon was preached to them on the night before their execution, which seemed to have a great effect on the mother, who now began seriously to reflect on her approaching exit; and both of them made due preparation for death.

As the country people were violently enraged against them, they were conducted to Ivelchester (the place of execution) between three and four in the morning of May 3, 1740, attended only by the gaoler and about six people, lest they should have been torn in pieces.

When they came to the spot, it was found that the gibbet had been out down; on which a carpenter was sent for, who immediately put up another; and they were executed before six o'clock, to the disappointment of thousands of people who had come from all parts of the country to witness the death of two such unworthy wretches.

Just before they were turned off Mrs. Branch made the following speech:—

‘Good people,

‘You who are masters and mistresses of families, to you I speak in a more particular manner. Let me advise you never to harbour cruel, base, and mean thoughts of your servants, as that they are your slaves and drudges, and that any sort of usage, be it ever so bad, is good enough for them. These, and such like, were the thoughts that made me use my servants as slaves,

vagabonds, and thieves; it was these that made me spurn at and despise them, and led me on from one degree of cruelty to another.

‘Keep your passions within due bounds; let them not get the mastery over you, lest they bring you to this ignoble end. I am fully punished for all my severities; and it is true I did strike my maid, but not with a design to kill her, and so far I think the sentence about to be executed upon me is unjust; but the Lord forgive my prosecutors, and all those who have maliciously and falsely sworn against me.

‘Another caution I would give to you who are parents; namely, to suppress in your children the first appearance of cruelty and barbarity. Nothing grieves me so much, under this shock, as that I have, by my example, and by my commands, made my daughter guilty with me of the same follies, cruelties, and barbarities, and thereby have involved her in the same punishment with myself.

‘I declare I had no design of killing the deceased, as the Lord is my judge, and before whom I must shortly appear. I beg of you to pray for me unto God that my sins may be forgiven me, and that I may be received to mercy.’

After this the daughter spoke these few words:—

‘Good people, pity my unhappy case, who, while young, was trained up in the paths of cruelty and barbarity; and let all present take warning by my unhappy end, so as to avoid the like crimes. You see I am cut off in the prime of life, in the midst of my days.—Good people, pray for me!’

CHARLES DREW,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS FATHER.

THIS culprit was the son of the owner of good property at Long man he murdered, and who was the Melford, in Suffolk; for the pos-

session of which, to support, like George Barnwell,* an extravagant wanton, he committed the foul deed for which he was executed.

Mr. Drew, senior, was an attorney; yet of so unaccountable a disposition, that he wholly neglected his son's education, having quarrelled with and lived separate from his wife. There were five daughters and the unhappy son who murdered him, and to all he appears to have conducted himself with the most culpable reserve and unfriendliness.

When Charles arrived at years of maturity he became acquainted with one Elizabeth Boyer, who submitted to his solicitations, but was a woman of so much art, that most people thought he would marry her; and, when she urged him to it, he said, 'Betsey, let us stay a little longer; it will be worse for us both if I do it now,

for my father will certainly disinherit me:' to which she replied, 'I wish somebody would shoot the old dog.'

This discourse was heard to pass between them in the month of January, 1740, and Mr. Drew was found murdered in his house on the first of February following. On inquiry into the affair, it was suspected that Mr. Drew was shot with a gun which had been lent to his son by Mrs. Boyer; and, though no prosecution was commenced against her, there was every reason to imagine that she had been the chief instigator to the atrocious crime.

Charles, having been to the Chelmsford assizes, fell into company with some smugglers, among whom was one Humphreys, a hardened villain, whom he invited to meet him at Mrs. Boyer's lodgings.

* Let Puritans rail at dramatic representations as they please, the tragedy of 'George Barnwell' has saved more youth from destruction than their ravings. A remarkable instance of this was told by Mr. Ross, formerly a celebrated tragedian:-

A gentleman, much dejected in his looks, called one day on Ross, when stricken with years, and told him that his father, a wealthy citizen in London, lay at the point of death, and begged that he might see him, or he could not die in peace of mind. Curious as this request appeared from a stranger, and in such extremity, the actor hesitated; but, being much pressed by his visitor, he agreed to accompany him. Arrived at the house of the sick man, Mr. Ross was announced, and soon admitted into his chamber; but, observing the family to retire, and being left alone with the patient, his wonder was again aroused. The dying penitent, now 'three-score years and ten,' casting his languid eyes upon Ross, said, 'Can it be you who raised my fortune—who saved my life? Then were you young like myself; ay, and amiable amid the direst misfortunes. I determined to amend my life, and avoid your fate.' Here nature, in a struggle with death, became overpowered, and, as the sick man's head fell upon his pillow, he faintly ejaculated, 'O Barnwell! Barnwell!'

We may conceive the astonishment of the player, whom age had long incapacitated from representing the unfortunate 'London Apprentice.' The feeble man, renewing his efforts to gratify a dying desire, again opened his eyes, and continued: 'Mr. Ross, some forty years ago, like George Barnwell, I wronged my master, to supply the unbounded extravagance of a Millwood. I took her to see your performance, which so shocked me, that I silently vowed to break the connexion then by my side, and return to the path of virtue. I kept my resolution, and replaced the money I had stolen before my villainy was detected. I bore up against the upbraidings of my deluder, and found a Maria in my master's daughter. We married. I soon succeeded to her father's business, and the young man who brought you here was the first pledge of our love. I have more children, or I would have shown my gratitude to you by a larger sum than I have bequeathed you; but take a thousand pounds affixed to your name.' At the dying man's signal, old Ross left the room, overwhelmed by his feelings. We recommend all young people to view the fate of George Barnwell, founded on fact.

They accordingly met; when Drew promised to settle two hundred pounds a year on him if he would murder his father; and gave him likewise at the time a considerable sum of money. Humphreys hesitated some time; but, at length consenting to the horrid proposal, they went together towards the house, having a gun loaded with slugs, about eleven at night on the 31st of January. It was agreed that young Drew should stand at a distance, while Humphreys was to knock at the door, ask for the old man, and then shoot him; but Humphreys's courage failing him when he came near the spot, he threw down the gun, saying he would have no concern in the murder. On this young Drew commanded him to keep silence, on pain of death; and, taking up the gun, went to the door, and, when his father opened it, shot him dead on the spot.

Having committed this horrid parricide, he said to Humphreys, 'The job is done;' on which Humphreys went to Dunmow, in Essex, where he had appointed to meet some smugglers that night, and after that travelled to London.

Young Drew, going to London, made application for the king's pardon to any one except him who had actually murdered his father; in consequence of which an advertisement to that purpose was inserted in the London Gazette, signed by the secretary of state; and another advertisement followed it, in which Drew himself offered a reward of a hundred pounds on conviction of the murderer. This procedure appears evidently to have been intended to take off all suspicion from himself, though he meant not to fix it on Humphreys.

This latter, being apprehended on suspicion, gave such an indifferent account of the transaction, that

he was ordered to be kept in custody: and while he was in prison Drew sent him twenty pounds, with the promise of a hundred more. After he was committed the suspicion of his guilt grew stronger, and was corroborated by several informations.

This gave Drew great uneasiness: he took the utmost pains to suppress all farther informations, and even to destroy the credibility of those already made. He publicly declared that Humphreys was not the man who shot his father, and threatened to prosecute the officer who apprehended him.

Drew now resided in London, where he changed his name to that of Roberts, and corresponded with Humphreys, who had assumed the name of John Smith. Some letters falling into the hands of Timothy Drew, Esq. a namesake only, he went to London in search of the murderer; and, after repeated inquiries, was told that he lodged in Shire Lane, whither he went, and asked for him by the name of Roberts. The people of the house said they had no lodgers; but the gentleman, who had a magistrate's warrant for apprehending the offender, insisted on searching the house: the search, however, was made in vain.

On this he went to several bagnios, and at length to a house in Leicester Fields, where he inquired for Mr. Roberts. Drew had given orders that he should be denied, for the landlord said that all the gentlemen who had lodged there the preceding night were gone; but Mr. Timothy Drew, observing him whisper one of the waiters, suspected the truth of this declaration, and, calling for a pint of wine, asked the waiter to drink with him. After some conversation he raised his voice, and in a positive manner

declared that he knew Mr. Roberts was in the house, but that his real name was Charles Drew, and that he had murdered his father; then he threatened to have all the people in the house apprehended for concealing a murderer. This authoritative manner induced the waiter to confess that the gentleman was in the house. Hereupon he was conducted to the mansion of Justice De Veil; and, after an examination of above six hours, was committed to Newgate under a strong guard.

During his residence in the prison he gave Jonathan Keate, the turnkey, a bond of half his fortune, on the condition of permitting him to escape, and accompanying him to France; and, for his farther security, he executed a bond for the payment of a thousand pounds. The turnkey seemed to comply, and the time was fixed on for their departure; but the man having informed Mr. Akerman, the keeper, of the progress of the affair, Drew was removed into the old condemned hole, where a guard was placed over him night and day.

On the approach of the assizes he was sent to the gaol of St. Edmund's-bury; and, Humphreys being admitted an evidence, Drew was convicted after a trial of several hours.

After conviction he seemed not to have a proper sense of the enormity of the crime of which he had been guilty, and would have attributed it to his father's ill treatment of him. He said that his father denied him necessary money for his expenses; and that his having refused to make over an estate to him was the first instigation to his committing the horrid crime.

He was visited by his sisters, who carefully avoided reflecting on him;

and did all in their power to console him in his unhappy situation.

He was hanged near St. Edmund's-bury, on the 9th of April, 1740, amidst the greatest crowd of spectators that were almost ever assembled on such a melancholy occasion in that part of the country.

He seemed to part with life with evident signs of reluctance, begging the clergyman who attended him to continue the devotions to the last possible moment. This man suffered in the twenty-fifth year of his age.

The crime of murder is in itself so horrid, that it requires no aggravation; but that of parricide is of the worst species of murder. The destruction of those from whom, under God, we have immediately derived our being, has something in it so shocking to humanity, that one would think it impossible it should ever be committed.

By the Lex Pompeia of the Romans parricides were ordained to be put into a sack, with a dog, a cock, a viper, and an ape, and thrown into the sea, thus to perish by the most cruel of all tortures. The Egyptians also put such delinquents to death in the most horrible manner. They gradually mangled their body and limbs, and, when almost every limb was dislocated or broken, they placed the criminal, writhing and screeching with pain, upon thorns, where he was burnt alive! In China impiety to parents was considered a crime similar in atrocity to treason and rebellion, for which criminals were sentenced to be cut in ten thousand pieces! By the ancient Jewish law it was also death for children to curse or strike their parents: in fine, every nation punished the parricide in the most exemplary manner.

GILBERT LANGLEY,

TRANSPORTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

GILBERT LANGLEY was born of Roman Catholic parents in London, where his father was an eminent goldsmith, and who sent his son to the seat of his grandfather in Derbyshire when he was only three years of age.

Having continued in this situation four years, his mother's anxiety induced her to fetch him home; soon after which he was entered in the school of the Charterhouse, where he became a tolerably good classical scholar.

The father now wished to send his son abroad for farther education, and that he might not fail of being brought up a strict Catholic: this was warmly opposed by the mother, through tenderness to her child; but her death left the father to act as he pleased.

The prior of the Benedictine convent at Douay being in London, Langley's father agreed for his board and education, and committed him to the care of his new guardian, with whom he proceeded to Dover, sailed for Calais, and, having travelled thence to St. Omers, on the following day reached Douay, where young Langley was examined by the prior and fellows of the college, and admitted of the school.

At the end of three years he became a tolerable master of the French language, exclusive of his other literary acquirements; so that, at the Christmas following, he was chosen king of the class, which is a distinction bestowed on the best of the scholars, whose business it is to regulate the public entertainments of the school.

It was the custom at Douay for officers to attend at the gates of the

town, to detect any persons bringing in contraband liquors, because the merchants of the place paid a large duty on them, which duty was annually farmed by the highest bidder.

During the Christmas holidays Langley and three of his school-fellows quitted the town, to purchase a small quantity of brandy at an under price; but being observed by a soldier, who saw their bottles filled, he informed the officers of the affair; the consequence of which was that the young gentlemen were stopped, and the liquor found hid under their cassocks. They offered money for their release; but it was refused, and they were conducted to the house of the farmer-general.

At the instant of their arrival two Franciscan friars, seeing them, said it was illegal to take students before the civil magistrates, because the superior of their own college was accountable for their conduct.

Hereupon they were taken home to the prior; and the farmer-general making his demand of the customary fine, the prior thought it extravagant, and refused to pay it: but at length the matter was settled by arbitration.

In the Catholic colleges the students lived in a very meagre manner during the season of Lent, having little to subsist on but bread and sour wine; a circumstance that frequently tempted them to supply their wants by acts of irregularity.*

At this season Langley and five of his companions, oppressed by the calls of hunger, determined to make an attack on the kitchen; but, at the instant they had forced open the door, they were overheard by

* If English students, out of their own money, could procure animal food, they might dress it; the servants of the college pretending not to see the impiety.

the servants, the consequence of which was that many furious blows were exchanged by the contending parties.

On the following day the delinquents were summoned to attend the prior, who was so incensed at this outrage against the good order of the society, that he declared they should be expelled as soon as a consistory of the monks could be held.

But, when the consistory assembled, they resolved to pardon all the offenders, on acknowledging their faults, and promising not to renew them, except one, named Brown, who had twice knocked down the shoemaker of the college because he had called out to alarm the prior.

The young gentlemen, chagrined at losing their associate, determined to be revenged on some one at least of the servants who had given evidence against them; and, after revolving many schemes, they determined that the man who lighted the fires should be the object of their vengeance, because he had struck several of them during the encounter.

This being resolved on, they disguised themselves, and went to a wood-house adjacent to the college; and, being previously provided with rods, they waited till the man came with his wheelbarrow to fetch wood, when one of them, going behind him, threw a cloak over his head, which being immediately tied round his neck, the rest stripped him, and flogged him in the most severe manner; while he called for assistance, but in vain, our heroes having taken previous care to shut the door of the wood-house.

The flagellation was just ended when the bell rung for the students to attend their evening exercise; on which they left the unhappy

victim of their revenge, and repaired to the public hall.

In the mean time the poor sufferer ran into the cloisters, exclaiming 'Le diable! Le diable!' as if he really thought the devil had tormented him: and hence he ran to the kitchen, where he recounted the adventure to his fellow-servants, who dressed his wounds, carried him to bed, and gave him something to nourish him.

A suspicion arising that the students had been the authors of this calamity to the poor fellow; the servants communicated the circumstances of it to the prior, who promised his endeavours to find out and punish the delinquents, and with this view went into the hall with a look at once penetrating and indignant: but the young gentlemen having bound themselves to secrecy by an oath, no discovery could be made.

Young Langley having distinguished himself by his attention to literature for the space of two years, the monks began to consider him as one who would make a valuable acquisition to their society, for which reason they treated him with singular respect, and at length prevailed upon him to agree to enter into the fraternity if his father's consent could be obtained.

As Langley was in no want of money, he frequently went into the town, to habituate himself to the manners of the people, and to observe their customs. One day, being a holiday, he, and one of his school-fellows named Meynel, asked the prior permission to walk on the ramparts; which being denied, they went out without leave, and, repairing to a tavern, drank wine till they were intoxicated.

In this condition they went to the ramparts, where, having been for some time the laughing-stock of

the company, they went home to bed. Being missed at evening prayers, some of the other students apologized for their absence by saying they were ill, and the excuse was very readily admitted: but in a few days afterwards a gentleman called on the prior, and told him what a ridiculous figure his students had made on the ramparts.

Incensed at this violation of their duty, the prior sent for them to his chamber, and gave orders that they should be flogged with great severity. This indignity had such an effect on the mind of Langley that he grew reserved and morose, and would have declined all his studies, but that one of the monks, called Father Howard, restored him to good humour by his indulgent treatment, and persuaded him to pay his usual attention to literature.

Father Howard's considerate conduct had such an effect on Langley, that he spent the greater part of his time with that gentleman, who instructed him in the principles of logic, and was about to initiate him in those of philosophy, when his father wrote a letter requiring him to return to his native country.

The society being unwilling to lose one who they thought would become a valuable member, the prior wrote to England, requesting that the youth might be permitted to complete his education; but the father insisted on his return.

Hereupon the young gentleman left the college, and, proceeding by the way of St. Omers, reached Calais in two days. As the wind was contrary, it was some days longer before the company embarked for England, when, instead of putting into Dover, the vessel came round to the Thames, and the passengers were landed at Gravesend.

Langley, having spent all his mo-

ney at Calais, now affected an air of unconcern, saying that he had no English money in his possession, from his having been so long abroad; on which one of the company lent him money, and on the following day he arrived at his father's house in London.

When he had reposed himself some days after his travel, the father desired him to make choice of some profession; on which he mentioned his inclination to study physic or law; but the old gentleman, who had no good opinion of either of these professions, persuaded him to follow his own trade of a goldsmith.

For the present, however, he was placed at an academy in Chancery Lane, that he might be instructed in those branches of knowledge requisite for a tradesman; but, becoming acquainted with some young gentlemen of the law, he found that his father's allowance of pocket-money was insufficient for his use; and, being unwilling that his new acquaintance should think he was deficient in cash, he purloined small sums from a drawer in his father's shop; and, when he did not find any money there, stole some pieces of broken gold, which he disposed of to the Jews.

Mr. Langley having sent his son with some plate to the house of a gentleman in Grosvenor Square, the youth saw a very beautiful woman go into a shop opposite a public house; on which he went into the latter, and, inquiring after her, found she had gone to her own lodgings. This ascertained, he delivered his plate, and formed a resolution of visiting the lady on the Sunday following.

When the Sunday came the old gentleman went out to smoke his pipe, as the son imagined, at an adjacent public house; and in the

mean time the son stole seven guineas from three different bags, that his father might not discover the robbery, and immediately repaired to the lodgings of the lady whom he had seen.

From her lodgings they went to a tavern, where they continued till the following day, having no idea of detection: but it happened that Mr. Langley, senior, instead of going to the public house as usual, had watched the son to the tavern above mentioned.

On the following day the father interrogated the youth respecting his conduct, and particularly asked where he had been the day before. The young fellow said he had been at church, where he met with some acquaintance, who prevailed on him to go to the tavern.

The father, knowing the falsehood of his tale, corrected his son in a severe manner, and forbade him to dine at his table till his conduct should be reformed. Thus obliged to associate with the servants, young Langley became soon too intimate with the kitchen-maid, and robbed his father to buy such things as he thought would be acceptable to her.

Among other things, he purchased her a pair of shoes laced with gold, which he was presenting to her in the parlour at the very moment that his father knocked at the door. The girl instantly quitted the room; and the old gentleman interrogating the son respecting the shoes, the latter averred that a lady, who said she had bought them in the neighborhood, desired leave to deposit them at their house till the following day.

After this the father permitted the son to dine with him as usual; but it was not long before he caught him in too intimate a connexion with the maid-servant in the kit-

chen; on which the girl was dismissed from her service, and Mr. Langley threatened to disinherit his son unless he would reform his conduct.

A middle-aged woman of grave appearance was now hired as a servant; but the evil complained of was far from being cured, as an intimacy between her and the young gentleman was soon discovered by the father.

It was not long after the servant-girl above mentioned had been discharged before she swore herself pregnant by the son, on which he was taken into custody by a warrant; the consequence of which was that the father paid fifteen pounds to compromise the affair, after which he received the son to his favour, and forgave all the errors of his former conduct.

The death of the old gentleman put his son in possession of a considerable fortune, exclusive of a good settled trade; and for the first year he applied himself so closely to business, that he made a net profit of seven hundred pounds: but he did not long continue this course of industry; for, having formerly made connexions with women of ill fame, particularly in the purlieus of Drury Lane, he now renewed his visits to those wretched victims to, and punishers of, the vices of men.

A man of genteel appearance, named Gray, having ordered plate of Langley to the amount of a hundred pounds, invited him to a tavern to drink. In the course of the conversation the stranger said he had dealt with his late father, and would introduce him to a lady who had thirty thousand pounds to her fortune. This was only a scheme to defraud Langley, who delivered the plate, and took a draft for the money on a vintner in

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Bartholomew Close; but, when he went to demand payment, the vintner was removed.

On the following day the vintner's wife went to Langley, and informed him that Gray had defrauded her husband of four hundred and fifty pounds; and Langley, being of a humane disposition, interested himself so far in behalf of the unfortunate man, that a letter of license for three years was granted him by his creditors.

Langley now took out an action against Gray, but was not able to find him; when one day he was accosted by a man in Fleet Street, who asked him to step into a public house, and he would tell him where he should meet with the defrauder. Langley complying with the proposal, the stranger said he would produce Gray within an hour if the other would give him a guinea; which being done, the stranger went out, but returned no more.

Exasperated by this circumstance, which seems to have been a contrivance of one of Gray's accomplices, Mr. Langley employed an attorney, who soon found the delinquent, against whom an action was taken out, in consequence of which he was confined several years in the Marshalsea.

Langley now became a sportsman on the turf at Newmarket, under the instruction of a vintner in Holborn, whose niece entered into his service, but soon fell a victim to his unbounded passion for the sex.

Langley becoming acquainted with some young fellows in the Temple, three of them, and four women of the town, went with him to Greenwich, where they gave the ladies the slip, and took a boat to London; but the women, pursuing them, overtook them in the river, and, attempting to board their boat,

afforded great diversion to the spectators: our adventurers' watermen, however, rowing hard, they reached the Temple, and concealed themselves in one of the chambers a few minutes before the ladies landed.

Soon after this Langley made another excursion to Greenwich to visit a lady and gentleman, who, having a remarkably handsome servant-maid, our adventurer found means to seduce her; the consequence of which was that she became pregnant, and made repeated applications to him for support: whereupon he gave her a considerable sum of money, and heard no more of her from that period.

Thus living in a continual round of dissipation, his friends recommended matrimony as the most likely step to reclaim him; in consequence of which he married a young lady named Brown, with a handsome fortune.

He had not been long married before he determined to borrow all the cash and jewels he could, and decamp with the property. As he had the reputation of being in ample circumstances, he found no difficulty in getting credit for many articles of value, with which he and his wife embarked for Holland; and, in the mean time, his creditors took out a commission of bankruptcy against him.

When Langley came to Rotterdam he applied to the States-General for protection, in apprehension of being pursued by his creditors; but the States not being then sitting, the creditors made application to Lord Chesterfield, then ambassador at the Hague, which frustrated his intention.

In the interim his creditors found out his lodgings in a village near Rotterdam; but he eluded their search, leaving his wife, with four hundred pounds, in the care of a

friend; and not even telling her the place of his retreat, to prevent any possibility of a discovery.

After skulking from place to place, he went back to Rotterdam, and surrendered to his creditors; but found that his wife was gone with an English captain to Antwerp. On his arrival in England he was examined before the commissioners, and treated with the customary lenity.

After his affairs were adjusted he sailed to Barbadoes, where he soon contracted so many debts that he was glad to take his passage to Port Royal, in Jamaica; and soon after his arrival there he went to visit a planter at some distance, who would have engaged him as his clerk.

Langley told the planter that he owed twenty dollars at Port Royal, for which he had left his chest as a security. The gentleman instantly giving him the money to redeem it, he went to Port Royal, assumed the name of Englefield, embarked on board a man of war as midshipman, and came to England, where the ship was paid off at the expiration of six months.

On his arrival in London he sent for a man who had formerly lived with his father, from whom he learnt that his creditors had not made any dividend under the bankruptcy, and were engaged in a lawsuit respecting a part of the property. This faithful old servant of his father told him that his wife had retired to the north of England; and, giving him money, recommended it to him to lodge privately in Southwark.

This advice he followed, and kept himself retired for some time; but, passing through Cheap-side, he was arrested, and conducted to the Poultry Compter, where he continued many months, during which he was supported by the benevo-

lence of the old servant above mentioned. While in the Compter he made some very bad connexions; and, being concerned with some of the prisoners in an attempt to escape, he was removed to Newgate, as a place of greater security.

While in this prison he fell ill of a disorder which threatened his life; whereupon his friends discharged the debt for which he had been arrested, and removed him to lodgings, where he soon recovered his health.

Shortly afterwards he got recommended to a captain in the Levant trade, with whom he was to have sailed; but an unhappy attachment to a woman of ill fame prevented his being ready to make the voyage.

Langley's friends were chagrined at this fresh instance of his imprudence; and soon afterwards he was arrested, and carried to a spunging-house, where he attempted to dispatch himself by a halter; but the rope breaking, he escaped with life. The bailiff and his wife happening to be now absent, and only two maid-servants in the house, Langley made them both drunk, and, effecting his escape, crossed the water into the Borough, where he worked some time with a colour-grinder.

Disgusted at a life attended by so much labour, he contracted with the captain of a Jamaica ship, who took him to that island on the condition of selling him as a slave, and, on his arrival, sold him to Colonel Hill, who employed him to educate his children: but Langley, soon running from his employer, went on board a ship bound to England: being impressed on his arrival in the Downs, he was put on board a man of war, and carried round to Plymouth.

Langley and another man, deserting from the ship, strolled to London, and took up their resi-

dence in a twopenny lodging: but, as Langley now found no friends to support him, he contracted with one of those persons called crimps, who used to agree with unhappy people to go as slaves to the colonies. His contract now was to sail to Pennsylvania; but, while the ship lay in the Thames, he and a weaver from Spitalfields made their escape, and, travelling to Canterbury, passed themselves as Protestant refugees.

Going hence to Dover, they embarked for Calais; and, after some weeks' residence in that place, Langley sailed to Lisbon, where he remained only a short time before he contracted debts which obliged him to seek another residence, and he went to Malaga, in Spain.

His poverty was now extreme; and, while he sat melancholy one day by the sea-side, some priests asked him from what country he came. He answered, in Latin, 'From England.'

Hereupon they conducted him to a convent, relieved his distresses, and then began to instruct him in the principles of the Roman Catholic religion. Langley disguised his sentiments, and, after being apparently made a convert, was recommended as a page to a Spanish lady of distinction.

In this situation he continued several months; but, having an affair of gallantry with the niece to the old lady, he was compelled to make a precipitate retreat from a window, and shelter himself in the house of an Irish tailor, who procured a passage for him to Gibraltar in the first ship that sailed.

On his arrival at Gibraltar he would have entered into the army; but being refused, because he was not tall enough, his distress compelled him to work as a labourer in repairing the barracks. He soon quitted this business, and officiated as a waiter in the tennis-court be-

longing to the garrison; but, it being intimated to the governor that he was a spy, he was lodged in a dungeon, where he remained more than a fortnight.

On obtaining his discharge he embarked on board a Spanish vessel bound to Barbary with corn: and, on his return to Spain, applied to the monks of a convent, who charitably relieved him; and the prior agreed to take him a voyage to Santa Cruz. Having, however, no great prospect of pecuniary advantage in this way of life, he went to Oratava, where some English merchants contributed to his support; but he soon sailed to Genoa, as he could get no settled employ at Oratava.

From Genoa the vessel sailed to Cadiz; and Langley, being now appointed steward to the captain, in the course of his reading some letters found one directed to Messrs. Ryan and Mannock; and, having been a schoolfellow with Mr. Mannock, he requested the captain's permission to go on shore, and was received by him in the most friendly manner: he offered to serve him in any way within his power, when Langley said that what he wished was a discharge from his present situation.

Hereupon Mannock wrote to the captain, desiring him to pay the steward, and discharge him; but this being refused, Langley took a lodging, to which he was recommended by his friend, who desired he would dine daily at his table till he procured a passage for England. He likewise gave him money and clothes, so as to enable him to appear in the character of a gentleman.

Langley behaved with great regularity for some time; but the season of a carnival advancing, he got into company with a woman of ill fame, with whom he spent the

evening; and, on his return, was robbed of his hat, wig, and a book which he had borrowed of his friend.

On the following day Mr. Mannoek saw the book lying at a shop for sale, which chagrined him so much that he asked Langley for it, who thereupon acknowledged the whole affair; and Mr. Mannoek supposing the woman was privy to the robbery, he took out a warrant against her; by which he recovered his book, which he greatly esteemed.

This matter being adjusted, Langley, by the help of his friend, procured a passage for England; but just when he was going to embark he met with a woman, who detained him till the ship had sailed; on which he took a boat, and passed over to St. Lucar, where he went on board an English vessel, which brought him to his native country.

On his arrival in London he found that his creditors, under the bankruptcy, had received ten shillings in the pound, which gave him reason to hope that he should have a sum of money returned to him, with which he proposed to engage in a small way of business; and in that view applied to his wife's mother for her assistance, and also to inform him where he might find his wife; but she positively refused to comply with either request.

Langley now gave himself up to despair, associated with the worst of company, and, though he had some money left him at this juncture, he dissipated the whole in the most extravagant manner.

He now made an acquaintance with one Hill, a young fellow who was in similar circumstances; and, having agreed to go to Paris together, they walked as far as Dover; but, on their arrival, finding that an embargo had been laid on all vessels in the port, they determined to return to London.

Being now destitute of cash, they demanded a man's money on the highway; but, on his saying he had not any, they searched him, and took from him three farthings, which they threw away almost as soon as they had got it: for this offence they were apprehended on the same day, and, being tried at the next assizes for Kent, were capitally convicted; but the sentence was changed to transportation for seven years.

Langley was transported in the month of December, 1740.

This man appears to have fallen the victim of unrestrained appetite and an aversion to honest industry. That his heart was not wholly depraved we may charitably infer from his treatment of the unfortunate vintner. But early vices grew up in him, until they (as is commonly the case) assumed the force of habits; and thus a life which might have been passed honorably and usefully, and by consequence happily, became overwhelmed with wretchedness and ultimate ignominy. It is to be regretted that his mother-in-law refused to befriend him on his last arrival in England. Had she done so, his sad experience might possibly have preserved him from future dishonesty and shame.

CAPTAIN HENRY SMYTHEE,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

MR. SMYTHEE's father, having been for many years commander of a ship in the merchant service, resigned in favour of his son, who

was a youth qualified by nature and education to cut a capital figure in any rank of life.

After he had made several voy-

ages a storm obliged him to put into the harbour of Poole, in Dorsetshire, where he saw a young lady, the daughter of a merchant, to whom he paid his addresses, and was in a short time married. His wife's father dying soon after their marriage, Mr. Smythee declined going any longer to sea, engaged in the mercantile business, and employed his leisure hours in rural diversions.

One day, when out with his gun, he wandered so far from home that he lost his way; and, being very hungry, strolled to a cottage kept by a poor widower, named Ralph Mew, who had an only daughter, equally distinguished by the elegance of her form and the simplicity of her manners.

Mr. Smythee requested the favour of some food; but the countryman, suspecting that he meant to take some undue advantage of him, told him he might be supplied at a public house a mile distant. Smythee, to convince the countryman that he was no impostor, showed him a diamond ring, a purse of gold, and his watch; on which he was asked to sit down; and Jane Mew, the daughter, fried some bacon and eggs for him, while her father drew some of his best ale.

After the repast he recounted several of his adventures in foreign parts; but in the mean time, regarding the daughter with an eye of desire, and being struck with her superior charms, he resolved, if possible, to get possession of her.

On his quitting the house the old man told him that, if he came that way another time, he should be welcome to any thing in his cottage, except his daughter. On the following day he went to the cottage, and gave the old man a tortoise-shell snuff-box, as a compliment for his hospitable behaviour the day before.

The old cottager going out, Mr. Smythee paid his warmest addresses to the daughter, to whom he presented some jewels: but she no sooner suspected his design than she said, 'Is it thus, sir, you make returns for my father's hospitality and my civility? And can you be such a wretch as to think that my poverty will make me guilty of a dishonorable action?'

Saying this, she rejected his presents with contempt; while he, apparently struck with the force of what she had urged, remained some time speechless, and then attributed his conduct to the violence of his passion, offering to make her all the satisfaction in his power by marriage.

The girl acquainting her father with what had passed, Mr. Smythee was permitted to pay his addresses in an honorable way: but such was his artifice and villainy, that his solemn vows of marriage soon prevailed over the too-credulous girl, and her ruin was the consequence.

When the father found that his daughter was pregnant he died with grief, leaving the unhappy girl a prey to the poignant sorrows of her own mind. Distressed as she was, she wrote to her seducer; but he taking no notice of her letter, she went to Poole, and, being directed to his house, the door was opened by Mrs. Smythee, who demanded her business, and said she was the wife of the person inquired for. The poor girl was so shocked to find that Mr. Smythee had a wife, that it was with difficulty she was kept from fainting.

When somewhat recovered, she said that she was with child by Mr. Smythee, who had seduced her under promise of marriage. Hereupon the wife censured her conduct with unreasonable severity, and threatened that she should be

lodged in prison if she did not immediately quit the town.

Leaving the house, the unhappy creature fainted in the street, and was soon surrounded by a number of females, who insulted her with every term of reproach.

When she recovered her senses she went to a public house, where she intended to have lodged; but the landlady threatening to send for the beadle, she was obliged to quit the house.

In the interim Mr. Smythee came to his own house, and, after being compelled to listen to the reproaches of his wife on the infidelity of his conduct, he went out, and desired a person to call on the young woman, and appoint her to meet him at a place without the town.

The unfortunate girl met him accordingly. What passed between them it is impossible to know; but on the following day she was found with her throat cut, and a bloody knife lying by her. Smythee absconding, it was generally supposed that he had been the murderer; and, on his return to Poole about a month afterwards, he was taken into custody, and lodged in the county gaol.

In his defence, at his trial, he urged that the reason of his absence from his family was a quarrel with his wife, in consequence of the unhappy discovery that had been made by the deceased: but, as he could bring no proof of his being absent from the spot when the murder was committed, no doubt remained of his guilt: he was therefore capitally convicted, and sentenced to die.

After conviction he was visited by several clergymen, who exerted themselves to impress him with a due sense of his awful situation. He freely acknowledged the great *guilt he had incurred in the seduction of the unhappy girl*; but *steadily denied being guilty of the murder*

to the last moment of his life. As the period for its termination advanced he became still more resigned, acknowledged the many errors of his life, and confessed himself worthy to undergo the rigour of the law.

He walked to the place of execution amidst an immense surrounding multitude, and, having ascended the cart, addressed the populace, advising them to refrain from yielding to the first impulses of temptation, as they would wish to be preserved from the violation of the Divine laws. After the usual devotions, he drew his cap over his face, and saying, 'To thee, O Lord, I resign my soul,' he was launched into eternity at Dorchester, on the 12th of April, 1741.

Thus ended the life of a man who might have lived happy in himself, and an useful member of society; but his submission to an ungenerous passion rendered him obnoxious to the violated laws of God and his country, and finally brought him to condign and exemplary punishment.

It does not clearly appear, from the narrative before us, whether Mr. Smythee was or was not guilty of the murder for which he suffered; but the presumptions are very strong against him. Be this as it may, there is nothing uncharitable in saying that the man who has been deliberately guilty of the wilful seduction of a harmless woman cannot be punished too severely, even by an exertion of the utmost rigour of the law.

Character is dearer to a woman than life; and it is a pity we have not a statute to punish the seducer as a murderer. In the mean time, however, he is acutely afflicted by the tormenting pangs of his guilty conscience, which must severely reprobate his conduct, and raise a hell in his own mind.



White and Mahony strangling Sir John Goodere in the Cabin of his Brother's Ship.

**CAPTAIN SAMUEL GOODERE, MATTHEW MAHONY, AND
CHARLES WHITE,**

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

SIR JOHN DINELY GOODERE succeeded his father, Sir Edward, in the possession of an estate of three thousand pounds a year, situated near Evesham, in Worcestershire.

His brother Samuel, the subject of this narrative, was bred to the sea, and advanced to the rank of captain of a man of war.

Sir John married the daughter of a merchant, and received twenty thousand pounds as a marriage portion; but mutual unhappiness was the consequence of this connexion: the husband was brutal in his manners, and the wife, perhaps, not strictly observant of the sacred vow she had taken; for she was too often visited by Sir Robert Jansen; and, after frequent recriminations between the married pair, Sir John

brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas for criminal conversation, and five hundred pounds damages were awarded by the jury.

Sir John's next step was to indict his lady for a conspiracy; and, a conviction following, she was fined, and imprisoned one year in the King's Bench. He likewise petitioned for a divorce; but the matter being heard in the House of Lords, his petition was thrown out.

Sir John having no children, Captain Samuel Goodere formed very sanguine expectations of possessing the estate; but, finding that the brother had docked the entail in favour of his sister's children, the captain sought the most diabolical means of revenge for the supposed injury.

While the captain's vessel lay in the port of Bristol, Sir John went to that city on business; and, being engaged to dine with an attorney, named Smith, the captain prevailed on the latter to permit him to make one of their company, under pretence of being reconciled to his brother: Mr. Smith consented, and, using his good offices to accommodate the difference, a sincere reconciliation appeared to have taken place.

This visit was made on the 10th of January, 1741, and the captain, having previously concerted his measures, brought some sailors on shore with him, and left them at a public house, in waiting to seize the baronet in the evening.

Accordingly, when the company broke up, Captain Goodere attended his brother through the streets, and, when they came opposite the public house, the seamen ran out, seized Sir John, and conveyed him to a boat that had been appointed to wait for his reception.

Some persons who were witnesses to this outrage would have rescued the unfortunate gentleman; but the captain telling them that he was a deserter, and the darkness of the evening preventing them from judging the contrary by his appearance, this violation of the law was permitted to pass unobstructed.

As soon as the devoted victim was in the boat, he said to his brother, 'I know you have an intention to murder me; and, if you are ready to do it, let me beg that it may be done here, without giving yourself the trouble to take me on board:' to which the captain said, 'No, brother, I am going to prevent your rotting on land; but, however, I would have you make your peace with God this night.'

Sir John, being put on board, applied to the seamen for help: but *the captain put a stop to any efforts*

they might have made to assist him by saying he was a lunatic, and brought on board to prevent his committing an act of suicide.

White and Mahony now conveyed him to the purser's cabin, which the captain guarded with a drawn sword, while the other villains attempted to strangle him with a handkerchief which they found in his pocket, the wretched victim crying out 'Murder!' and beseeching them not to kill him, offering all he possessed as a compensation for his life.

As they could not strangle him with the handkerchief, the captain gave them a cord, with which Mahony dispatched him, while White held his hands, and trod on his stomach. The captain now retired to his cabin; and, the murder being committed, the perpetrators of it went to him, and told him 'the job was done;' on which he gave them money, and bade them seek their safety in flight.

The attorney with whom the brothers had dined having heard of the commission of a murder, and knowing of the former animosity of the captain to his brother, immediately conjectured who it was that had fallen a sacrifice; on which he went to the mayor of Bristol, who issued his warrant to the water-bailiff, and he, going on board, found that the lieutenant and cooper had prudently confined the captain to his cabin.

The offender, being brought on shore, was committed to Newgate; and Mahony and White, being taken in a few hours afterwards, were lodged in the same prison.

At the sessions held at Bristol on the 26th of March, 1741, these offenders were brought to trial; and, being convicted on the fullest evidence, received sentence of death.

After conviction, Mahony be-

haved in the most hardened manner imaginable; and, when the gaolers were putting irons on him, said he should not regard dying on the following day, if he could be attended by a priest, to whom he might confess his sins. This man and White were both Irishmen, and Roman Catholics.

Captain Goodere's time, after conviction, was spent chiefly in writing letters to persons of rank, to make interest to save his life; and his wife and daughter presented a petition to the king: but all endeavours of this kind proving ineffectual, he employed a man to hire some colliers to rescue him on his way to the fatal tree; which circumstance transpiring, the sheriff took care to have a proper guard to carry the law into effectual execution.

Capt. Goodere's wife and daughter, dressed in deep mourning, took a solemn leave of him on the day before his death. He went in a mourning-coach to the place of execution, to which his accomplices were conveyed in a cart.

They were hanged near the Hot Wells, Bristol, on the 20th of April, 1741; within view of the place where the ship lay when the murder was committed.

Along with them suffered a woman, named Jane Williams (for the murder of her bastard child), who had been brought up in such a wretched state of ignorance, that she knew not, until instructed by the clergyman who attended her dying moments, that there is a God:—

'And that there is, all Nature cries aloud.'

JAMES HALL, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS malefactor appears to have been descended of honest parents, at Wells, in Somersetshire, who gave him such an education as might qualify him for any ordinary rank of life.

Being unwilling to remain in the country, he came to London, and lived some time with a corn-chandler; and, after a continuation in this service, he married, and had several children: but, not living happily with his wife, articles of separation were executed between them. After this he married another woman, by whom he had one child, and who visited him after his being in custody for the murder.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in August, 1741, he was indicted for the murder of John Penny, gentleman, and, pleading guilty, received sentence of death.

Mr. Penny had chambers in Cle-

ment's Inn, and Hall had lived with him seven years before he committed the murder; nor had he formed any design of being guilty of that horrid deed till within about a month of its perpetration: but, having kept more company than his circumstances could afford, he had involved himself in difficulties, which made him resolve to murder and rob his master.

On the 7th of June, 1741, he intoxicated himself with liquor, and then determined to carry his design into execution. Mr. Penny coming home between eleven and twelve at night, Hall assisted in undressing him in the dining-room; and, while he was walking towards the bed, the villain followed him with a stick, which he had concealed for the purpose, and struck him with such force that he never spoke afterwards; continuing his blows on the

head till the sufferer was apparently dead.

Willing, however, to be certain of completing the horrid tragedy, and to avoid detection, he went into the dining-room, and, stripping himself naked, took a small fruit-knife belonging to his master, and, returning to the chamber, cut his throat with it, holding his neck over the chamber-pot. Mr. Penny bled very freely; for, when the blood was mixed with a small quantity of water, it almost filled the pot five times; and three of the pots, thus mixed, the murderer threw into the sink, and two into the coal-hole. He then took his master's waistcoat, which was lined with duff, and bound it round his neck, to suck up the remainder of the blood.

This being done, he took the body on his shoulders, carried it to the necessary, and threw it in headforemost; then flying back immediately to the chambers, under the most dreadful apprehensions of mind, he took his master's coat, bloody shirt, the stick that he had knocked him down with, and some rags which he had used in wiping up the blood, and, running a second time naked to the necessary-house, threw them in at a hole on the opposite side of it.

The body being thus disposed of, he stole about thirty-six guineas from his master's pocket and writing-desk; and such was the confusion of his mind, that he likewise took some franks, sealing-wax, and other articles for which he had no use, employing the remainder of the night in washing and rubbing the rooms with cloths; but, finding it no easy matter to get out the blood, he sent for the laundress in the morning to wash them again, telling her that his master's nose had bled over-night.

On the following day the guilty wretch strolled from place to place, unable to find rest for a moment any where; and all his thoughts being engaged in concealing the murder, which he hoped was effectually done, from the place where he had secreted the body.

On the Friday following, he went to Mr. Wooton, his master's nephew, on a pretence of inquiring for Mr. Penny, who, he said, had quitted the chambers two days before, and gone somewhere by water; so that he was afraid some accident had happened to him.

Mr. Wooton was so particular in his inquiries after his uncle that Hall was exceedingly terrified at his questions, and knew not what answer to make to them. After this the criminal went twice every day to Mr. Wooton, to inquire after his master, for ten days, living all the while in a torment of mind that is not to be described.

So wretched was he, that, finding it impossible to sleep in the chambers, he got his wife to come and be with him, and they lay in Mr. Penny's bed; but still sleep was a stranger to him.

At length Mr. Wooton had Hall taken into custody, on a violent suspicion that he had murdered his uncle. On his first examination before a magistrate, he steadily avowed his innocence; but, being committed to Newgate, he attempted an escape: this, however, was prevented; and, a few days afterwards, he confessed his guilt before some relations of the deceased.

We have already mentioned that he pleaded guilty on his trial; and have now to add that, after sentence was passed on him, he was exceedingly contrite and penitent, and confessed his guilt in letters to his friends.

On the day before his death he

received the sacrament with all apparent signs of that penitence which was necessary to prepare him for the dreadful scene that lay before him.

He was hanged at the end of Catherine Street, in the Strand, Sept. 15, 1741, and his body afterwards hung in chains at Shepherd's Bush, three miles beyond Tyburn turnpike, on the road to Acton.

The following is a letter which this malefactor wrote to his wife the night preceding the execution :

'Twelve o'clock, Sunday night.

'My Dear,

'I am very sorry we could not have the liberty of a little time by ourselves when you came to take your leave of me; if we had, I should have thought of many more things to have said to you than I did; but then I fear it would have caused more grief at our parting. I am greatly concerned that I am obliged to leave you and my child, and, much more, in such a manner as to give the world room to reflect upon you on my account; though none but the ignorant will, but rather pity your misfortunes, as being fully satisfied of your innocence in all respects relating to the crime for which I am in a few hours to suffer.

'I now heartily wish, not only

for my own sake, but the injured person's, your's, and my child's, that I was as innocent as you are, but freely own I am not, nor possibly can be in this world; yet I humbly hope, and fully trust, through God's great mercy, and the merits of my blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, to be happy in the next.

'After I parted with you I received the holy sacrament comfortably, which Mr. Broughton was so good as to administer to me, who has also several times before taken a great deal of pains to instruct me, and so have some others of his acquaintance, by whose assistance, and my own endcavours, I hope God will pardon all my sins for Christ's sake, and admit me into his heavenly kingdom.

'My dear, some of my latest prayers will be to God, to direct and prosper you and my child in all good ways, so long as he pleases to let you live here on earth; that afterwards he may receive you both to his mercies to all eternity. I hope I shall willingly submit to my fate, and die in peace with all men. This is now all the comfort I can give you in this world, who living was, and dying hope to remain,

'Your loving and most affectionate husband,

'JAMES HALL.'

HENRY COOK,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

This man was the son of creditable parents in Houndsditch; and, having received a decent education, was apprenticed to a leather-cutter, with whom he served his time, and then his father took the shop of a shoemaker at Stratford, in Essex, in which he placed his son.

Having some knowledge of the shoemaking business, he was soon well established, and married a

young woman at Stratford, by whom he had three children before he commenced highwayman.

However, it was not long after his marriage before the associating with bad company, and the neglect of his business, involved him so far in debt, that he was obliged to quit his house, in apprehension of the bailiffs.

He was afterwards compelled

wholly to decline business; and, having taken up goods in the name of his father, he was ashamed to make application to him for relief in his distress.

Among the idle acquaintance that Cook had made at Stratford was an apothecary, named Young, who was concerned with him in robbing gardens and fish-ponds, and in stealing poultry. The persons robbed offered a reward for apprehending the offenders; and Cook having been known to sell fowls at Leadenhall market, a warrant was granted to take him into custody; but, having notice of it, he concealed himself two months at the house of a relation, at Grays, in Essex.

During this retreat it was determined not to execute the warrant; but Cook learning that a bailiff at Stratford had vowed to arrest him if he could be found, he sent the officer a letter, advising him to consult his own safety, for he would blow his brains out if he should meet him.

This threat effectually intimidated the bailiff; and Cook, having dissipated all his cash, went to Stratford, where he found a man so intimate with his wife, that he became enraged in the highest degree, and, taking several articles of furniture with him, he went to London and sold them.

This being done, he went to the house of a relation in Shoreditch, where he was treated with civility while his money lasted; but, when that was nearly gone, there was no farther appearance of friendship; and, being now driven to extremity, he went to Moorfields, where he purchased a pair of pistols, and, having procured powder and ball, went towards Newington, in his way to which he robbed a man of fifteen shillings, and returned to London.

Thus embarked in the high road to destruction, he determined to continue his dangerous trade; and on the following day went to Finchley Common, where he stopped a gentleman, the bridle of whose horse he seized, and ordered him to dismount on pain of death. The rider, complying, was robbed both of his money and horse; but he offered the highwayman three guineas if he would send the horse to an inn at St. Albans, which he promised to do; but afterwards, finding that he had a valuable acquisition in the beast, he failed to restore him.

This robbery being committed, Cook crossed the country to Enfield Chase, and, going to a public house where he was known, said that he wished to hide himself lest he should be arrested.

Having continued here two days, he proceeded to Tottenham, where he robbed a gentleman of about six pounds; and, leaving his horse at an inn in Bishopsgate Street, he went to his kinsman's in Shoreditch, where he was interrogated respecting his possessing so much money, but would give no satisfactory answer.

On the following day he went on the St. Albans road, and, having robbed the passengers of a stage-coach of eight pounds, he went to Enfield Chase, to the house he had frequented before; but, while he was there, he read an advertisement, in which his horse was so exactly described that he determined to abscond; and went accordingly to Hadley Common, near Barnet, where he robbed a gentleman, and, taking his horse, gave the gentleman his own.

Soon after this he went to an inn at Mims, where he saw a gentleman whom he had formerly robbed, and was so terrified at the sight of the

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injured party, that he ran to the stable, took his horse, and galloped off with the utmost expedition.

On the road between Mims and Barnet he was met by eight men on horseback, one of whom recognised the horse he rode, saying that a highwayman had stolen it from a gentleman of his acquaintance.

Our adventurer replied that he had bought the horse at the Bell, at Edmonton, of which he could give convincing proofs : whereupon the whole company determined to attend him to that place ; but, when he came near Edmonton, he galloped up a lane, being followed by all the other parties ; and, finding himself in danger of being apprehended, he faced his pursuers, and, presenting a pistol, swore he would fire unless they retreated. Some countrymen coming up at this juncture, he must have been made prisoner ; but, night advancing, he quitted his horse, and took shelter in a wood.

When he thought he might safely leave his lurking-place, our hero hastened to London, and, going to the house of his relation, in Shore-ditch, was challenged with having committed robberies on the highway ; but nothing could be learnt from the answers he gave.

Having dissipated his present money, he went again upon Finchley Common. His late narrow escape, however, made such an impression on his mind, that he suffered several persons to pass unattacked, but at length robbed an old man of his horse and five pounds, though not till after it was dark.

Soon afterwards he met a gentleman, whom he obliged to change horses with him ; but, in a few minutes, the gentleman was stopped by the owner of the horse he rode, who said a highwayman had just robbed him of it. Enraged at this,

the gentleman swore the place was infested with thieves : however, he delivered the horse, and walked to London.

Cook, riding to his old place of resort, near the Chase, remained there three days ; but, seeing the horse he had last stolen advertised, he rode off in fear of discovery, and had not proceeded far before he was seized by the owner, assisted by three other persons, who conducted him to Newgate.

At the next Old Bailey sessions he was indicted for stealing this horse ; but acquitted, because the owner of it would not swear to his person.

Soon after his discharge he returned to his former practices ; but, his affairs with his creditors having been by this time adjusted by his friends, he lived at Stratford with his wife, and committed his depredations chiefly on Epping Forest.

Having acquired a booty of thirty pounds, he showed it to a journeyman he kept, named Taylor, and asked him how he might employ it to the best advantage in buying leather ; but Taylor, guessing how it had been obtained, offered to go partners with his master in committing robberies on the highway ; and the base contract was instantly made.

They now stopped a great number of coaches on the borders of the forest ; but acted with such an uncommon degree of caution, that they were for a long time unsuspected. The neighbours being at length terrified by these repeated outrages on the public peace, a Captain Mawley took a place in the basket of the Colchester coach, to make discoveries ; and Cook and Taylor coming up to demand the money of the passengers, Taylor was shot through the head ; on which Cook ran to the captain, and

robbed him of his money, on threats of instant death.

The carriage driving on, Cook began to search his deceased companion for his money; but some of the neighbours coming up, he retired behind a hedge to listen to their conversation; and, having found that some of them knew the deceased, and intimated that he had been accompanied by Cook, he crossed the fields to London.

Having spent three days in riot and dissipation, he went to his relation in Shoreditch, whom he requested to go to Stratford, to inquire the situation of affairs there. When this person returned he told Cook there were several warrants issued against him, and advised him to go to sea.

This he promised to do, but, instead thereof, he bought a horse, and rode to Brentwood, in Essex, where he heard little conversation but of Cook, the famous highwayman of Stratford; and, on the next day, he followed a coach from the inn where he had put up, and took about thirty pounds from the passengers.

Cook now connected himself with a gang of desperate highwaymen in London, in conjunction with whom he stopped a coach near Bow, in which were some young gentlemen from a boarding-school. A Mr. Cruikshanks riding up at this instant, one of the gang demanded his money; but, as he hesitated to deliver it, another of them knocked him down, and killed him on the spot; after which the robbers went to a public house near Hackney Marsh, and divided the spoils of the evening.

Cook continued but a short time with this gang; and, going to a house at Newington Green, sent for a woman with whom he had cohabited, who threatened to have

him apprehended unless he would give her some money; and, though he had but little in his possession, he gave her a guinea, and promised her a farther sum, lest she should carry her threats into execution.

Oppressed in mind by contemplations on his crimes, and particularly by reflecting on the murder of Mr. Cruikshanks, he went to St. Albans, where he assumed a new name, and worked as a journeyman shoemaker for about three weeks; when, a highwayman being pursued through the town, the terrors of his conscience on the occasion were such that he hastily left the shop, and ran across the country towards Woburn, in Bedfordshire.

In his way thither, however, he robbed a farmer of fifty pounds and his horse, and bade him sue the county. The farmer soon raised the hue and cry; but Cook escaped for the present, and, riding as far as Birmingham, took lodgings at a public house, and disposed of his horse.

Cook had now assumed the name of Stevens; and the landlord of the house where he lodged speaking to him about a shop to be let, he took it, and entered into business as a shoemaker. He also hired one Mrs. Barrett as his housekeeper; but she soon became his more intimate companion, and, accompanying him to horse-races, and other places of public diversion, his little money was soon dissipated.

Thus situated, Cook told his housekeeper that he had an aunt in Hertfordshire, who allowed him a hundred per annum, which he received in quarterly payments, and that he would go to her for his money. Under this pretence he left her, and went to Northampton, and from thence to Dunstable, near which place he robbed a farmer of

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his horse and sixteen pounds, and then rode to Daventry.

At this last place he met with a Manchester dealer, going home from London; and, having spent the evening together, they travelled in company the next day, and dined at Coventry. Cook, having an intention of robbing his fellow-traveller, intimated that it would be proper to conceal their money, as they had a dangerous road to travel; and, putting his own money into his boot, the other put a purse of gold into his side-pocket.

Prosecuting their journey till they came to a cross-road, Cook demanded his companion's money, on pain of immediate death; and, having robbed him of thirty-five guineas, he travelled immediately to Birmingham, Mrs. Barrett imagining he had been supplied by his aunt, agreeably to the story he had told her.

He now carried on trade as usual; but, as often as he was distressed for cash, he used to have recourse to the road, and recruited his pockets by robbing the stages.

At length a London trader, coming to Birmingham, asked Cook how long he had lived there: which terrified him so that he quitted the place and travelled towards London, and near Highgate robbed a gentleman, named Zachary, of his horse and money.

Upon this stolen horse he rode to Epping Forest on the following day, and, having robbed a gentleman, returned to London by the way of Stratford, at which place he spoke to a number of his old acquaintances, but was not imprudent enough to quit his horse.

Going to a house he had frequented at Newington Green, he sent for his relation who lived near Shoreditch, who advised him to

make his escape, or he would certainly be taken into custody. On this he went to Mims: and his relation visiting him, Cook begged he would sell five watches for him; but the other declined it, recommending him to dispose of them himself in London.

On the following evening, when it was almost dark, he rode towards town, and, observing a chaise behind him, permitted it to pass, and followed it to the descent of the hill towards Holloway. There were two gentlemen in the chaise, whose money Cook demanded: but, instead of complying, they drove on the faster; on which he fired, and wounded one of them in the arm; but the report of the pistol bringing some people towards the spot, he galloped off, and went to Mims, his old place of retreat.

Coming to London next day to sell his watches, he was seen in Cheapside by a woman who knew him, and followed him to Norton Folgate, where, observing him to go into a public house, she went and procured a constable, who took him into custody, and found on him five watches, and about nine pounds in money.

On his examination before a magistrate, Mr. Zachary, whom he had robbed near Highgate, swearing to the identity of his person, he was committed to Newgate; but not before he had offered to become evidence against some accomplices he pretended to have had, which offer was rejected.

He now formed a scheme to murder the keepers, and to make his escape; but, being detected, he was confined to the cells, and being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, was capitally convicted.

After sentence of death Cook for some time affected a gaiety of

convulsive fits, and he never afterwards recovered his health.

This offender was hanged at Tyburn, Dec. 16, 1741.

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

When the murderers came to the house they found the master, mistress, the child above mentioned, and Mr. Lynch, at supper in the parlour. All these they immediately murdered; and then, going to the kitchen, killed three servant-maids; and, finding the men in different parts of the house, they likewise fell a sacrifice to their brutal and unprovoked rage.

The murder of eleven persons being thus perpetrated, they quitted the fatal spot; and, when some persons from Tuam came the next morning to speak with Mr. Bodkin on business, they found the house open, and beheld the dead body of Mr. Lynch, near which lay that of Mrs. Bodkin, hacked and mangled in a shocking manner; and, at a small distance, her husband, with his throat cut, and the child lying dead across his breast. The throats of the maid-servants in the kitchen were all cut; and the men-servants in another room were likewise found victims of the inhuman barbarity of the murderers, who had even been so wanton in their cruelties as to kill all the dogs and cats in the house.

The neighbours being alarmed by such a singular instance of barbarity, a suspicion fell on John Bodkin, who, being taken into custody, confessed all the tragical circumstances above mentioned, and impeached his accomplices : on which the other offenders were taken into custody, and all of them committed to the gaol of Taam.

The shepherd confessed that he had murdered two; but, thinking to preserve the boy, to whom he had been foster-father*, besmeared him with blood, and laid him near his father. Dominick, perceiving him alive, killed him; and he acknowledged to murdering five more. John Bodkin owned that he and Burke killed the remainder; that he had formerly attempted to poison his mother-in-law; and that he was concerned with his first-cousins, John Bodkin, then living, and Frank Bodkin, then lately dead, in strangling Dominick Bodkin, their brother, heir of the late Counsellor John Bodkin, of Carobegg, to an estate of nine hundred pounds a year.

When they were brought to trial John Bodkin (the parricide), Dominick Bodkin, and John Hogan, pleaded guilty; but they were all condemned, and executed at Tuam, on the 26th of March, 1742. The head of the shepherd was fixed on Tuam market-house, and the bodies of the others gibbeted within sight of the house where the murders had been committed.

Upon the confession of John, the cousin of the same name was apprehended for the murder of his elder brother, Dominick Bodkin, and accused of sitting on his mouth and breast until he was suffocated. He was taken in a moss, or turf bog, near Tuam, covered over with straw, and disguised in an old hat and peasant's clothes, for which he had given his own laced coat and hat. Being examined before Lord Athenry, he said that he had fled for fear of being loaded with irons in a gaol, and denied having any hand in his brother Dominick's

death, affirming that he had died of a surfeit, as had been reported. He was present at the execution of his relations, but confessed nothing, and thus for a while (there being no positive proof against him) escaped justice.

Seldom shall we hear of murders so atrocious, so unprovoked, as those above related! A son, because his father will not indulge his extravagance, resolves on the murder of a parent who had behaved with real generosity to him; and, communicating his plan to three abandoned miscreants, they agree to act their parts in the horrid tragedy, without prospect, and, as far as we can judge, without hope of reward.

It is not for mortals to presume how far the mercy of the Almighty shall be extended; but those who feel themselves capable of committing such horrid crimes have no right to expect the interposition of God in their favour. The sin of murder is of the first magnitude, of the blackest die! The murder of an indulgent parent must be insufferably shocking to every humane mind: but when we consider, as in the present instance, what a variety of unprovoked murders were added to the first, the mind is lost in astonishment at the baseness, the barbarity, the worse than savage degeneracy, of those beings who could perpetrate such horrid deeds!

Let it be the subject of our constant prayer to the great fountain of mercy and benevolence that we may be preserved from the temptation of imbruing our hands in the blood of our fellow-creatures; and that our whole lives may be actuated by the principles of justice, and guided by the laws of kindness!

* It was customary with wealthy families in Ireland to put their children to nurse with some poor tenants, who afterwards called themselves foster-father and foster-mother to the young squire or miss; while their children claimed the appellation of foster-brother and foster-sister; and an affection, thus cemented, remained between them through life.

The man was no sooner gone than Ramsey, taking up the diamond ring, said that a wrong one had been brought, and that he would go back and rectify the mistake. In the interim the jeweller, finding that he had not been wanted at home, began to suspect that some undue artifice had been used; on which he hurried to the tavern, and thought himself happy to find that the parson had not decamped.

Having privately directed the waiter to procure a constable, he accused the clergyman of defrauding him of the rings. The other was naturally astonished at such a charge, but the jeweller insisted on taking him before a magistrate; where he related a tale that, some days before, those rings had been ordered by a man whom he supposed to be an accomplice of the person now charged: but the clergyman, being a man of fair character, sent for some reputable people to bail him; while the jeweller returned home, cursing his ill fortune for the trick that had been put on him.

London being an unsafe place for Ramsey longer to reside in, he went to Chester, where he assumed the character of an Irish gentleman, who had been to study physic in Holland, and was now going back to his native country. During his residence at Chester he stated that he was in possession of a specific cure for the gout. The landlord of the inn he put up at, being ill of that disorder, took the medicine; and his fit leaving him in a few days, he ascribed the cure to the supposed nostrum.

Ramsey, having gone by the name of Johnson in this city, now dressed himself as a physician; and, having printed and dispersed hand-bills, giving an account of many patients whose disorders had yielded to his

skill, and promising to cure the poor without expense, no person doubted either the character or abilities of Dr. Johnson.

A young lady who was troubled with an asthma became one of his patients; and Ramsey, presuming that she possessed a good fortune, insinuated himself so far into her good graces that she would have married him, but that her uncle, in whose hands her money was, happened to come to Chester at that juncture.

The young lady acquainted the uncle with the proposed marriage; on which the old gentleman observed that it would be imprudent to marry a man with whose circumstances and character she was wholly unacquainted; on which she consented that the necessary inquiries should be made, but reluctantly enough, being entirely devoted to her lover.

Hereupon Ramsey put into her uncle's hands copies of several letters which he said he had written to some people of distinction, who would answer for his character. By this finesse he hoped to get time to prevail on the lady to marry him privately, which indeed she would readily have done, but through fear of offending her uncle.

During this situation of affairs, while Ramsey was walking without the city, he happened to see the clergyman above mentioned, whom he had so much injured in London; on which he hastily retired to a public house in Chester; and sent a person to Park Gate to inquire when any ship would sail for Ireland; and the answer brought was, that a vessel would sail that very night.

On receiving this intelligence, Ramsey went and drank tea with the young lady; and, taking the opportunity of her absence from

the room, he opened a drawer, whence he took a diamond ring, and fifty guineas, out of eighty which were in a bag. Upon her return to the apartment, he asked the lady to spend the evening at his lodgings, and play a game at cards; and, having obtained her consent, they passed some time with apparent satisfaction: but Ramsey, going down stairs, returned in great haste, and said that her uncle was below. As she appeared frightened by this circumstance, he locked her in the room, first giving her a book to read; and said that, if her uncle should desire to come up, he would pretend to have lost the key of the door.

The intent of this plan was to effect his escape while she was confined; and, having got on board the ship the same evening, he sent her a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

‘Dear Madam,—I doubt not but you will be extremely surprised at the sudden disappearance of your lover: but, when you begin to consider what a dreadful precipice you have escaped, you will bless your stars. By the time this comes to hand I shall be pretty near London; and, as for the trifle I borrowed of you, I hope you will excuse it, as you know I might have taken the whole if I would; but you see there is still some conscience among us doctors.

‘The ring I intend to keep for your sake, unless the hazard-table disappoints me; and, if ever fortune puts it in my power, I will make you a suitable return; but, till then, take this advice—never let a strange doctor possess your affections any more.

‘I had almost forgotten to ask pardon for making you my prisoner; but I doubt not that old

Starch-face, your uncle, would detain me a little longer, if he could find me. Adieu. R. JOHNSON.’

This letter he committed to the care of a person who was to go to Chester in a few days; and in the interim Ramsey reached Dublin, where, having dissipated his money in extravagance, he embarked in a ship bound to Bristol, and travelled thence to London.

On his arrival in the metropolis he found his younger brother, who had likewise supported himself by acts of dishonesty, and these two agreed to act in concert.

His brother was a snuff-box maker, and they now went out together, genteelly dressed, early in the morning, in order to commit their depredations. When they found the door of a genteel house open, and while the servant-woman was washing the steps, or gone on a short errand, leaving the door ajar, one of them would slip in and seize the plate on the sideboard, or whatever he could lay his hands on, while the other remained to prevent surprise; and then he would receive and run off with the prize, while the actual robber, with apparent unconcern, walked off another way.

They committed a variety of robberies in this manner, confining their depredations chiefly to the stealing of plate; but we proceed to the narrative of that for which Ramsey suffered the extreme rigour of the law.

Having taken a previous survey of Mr. Glyn's house, at the corner of Hatton Garden, the brothers broke into it in the night, and carried off a quantity of plate; but, hand-bills being immediately circulated, they were taken into custody while offering the plate for sale to a Jew in Duke's

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Place.* The lord mayor, on examining the prisoners, admitted the younger brother an evidence against the elder.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey it was an affecting scene to behold the one brother giving evidence against the other, who was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death. That such a transgressor should be brought to condign punishment was doubtless just; but who can avoid feeling disgust at the means through which that end was effected?

After conviction Ramsey seemed to entertain a proper idea of the enormity of the offences of which he had been guilty; and in several letters to persons whom he had robbed he confessed his crimes, and entreated their prayers. He did not flatter himself with the least hope of pardon, sensible that his numerous offences must necessarily preclude him from such favour.

A letter which he wrote to a

friend at Bristol contains the following pathetic expressions: 'O blame me not! I am now, by the just judgment of God and man, under sentence of death. Whatever injuries I have committed, with tears in my poor eyes I ask forgiveness! Oh! my friend, could you but guess or think what agonies I feel, I am sure you would pity me: may my Father which is in heaven pity me likewise!

Ramsey was executed at Tyburn on the 13th of January, 1742, after having made an affecting address to the surrounding multitude, entreating the younger part of the audience to avoid gaming, as what would infallibly lead to destruction.

After the customary devotions on such melancholy occasions he was turned off, and the body, having hung the usual time, was conveyed in a hearse to Giltspur Street, whence it was taken, and decently interred by his friends, at

* One of a class of cheats, of the society of Jews, who are to be found in every street, lane, and alley, in and near the metropolis, under the pretence of purchasing old clothes and metals of different sorts. Their chief business, really, is to prow! about the houses and stables of men of rank and fortune, for the purpose of holding out temptations to the servants to pilfer and steal small articles, not likely to be missed, which these Jews purchase at about one-third of the real value. It is supposed that upwards of fifteen hundred of these depraved people are employed in diurnal journeys of this kind; by which, through the medium of bad money and other fraudulent dealings, many of them acquire property, and then set up shops, and become receivers of stolen goods.

It is estimated that there are from fifteen to twenty thousand Jews in the city of London, besides, perhaps, about five or six thousand more in the great provincial and seaport towns, where there are at least twenty synagogues, besides six in the metropolis. Most of the lower classes of those distinguished by the name of German or Dutch Jews live chiefly by their wits, and establish a system of mischievous intercourse all over the country, the better to carry on their fraudulent designs in the circulation of base money, the sale of stolen goods, and in the purchase of metals of various kinds; as well as other articles, pilfered from the dock-yards, and stolen in the provincial towns, which they bring to the metropolis to elude detection—and vice versa.

Educated in idleness from their earliest infancy, these men acquire every debauched and vicious habit which can fit them for the most complicated arts of fraud and deception; to which they seldom fail to add the crime of perjury, whenever it can be of use in shielding themselves or their associates from the punishment of the law. From the orange boy, and the retailer of seals, razors, glass, and other wares, in the public streets, to the shopkeeper, dealer in wearing apparel, or in silver and gold, the same principles of conduct too generally prevail.

The itinerants utter base money, to enable them, by selling cheap, to dispose of their goods; while those that are stationary, with very few exceptions, receive and purchase, at an under price, whatever is brought them, without asking questions.

the expiration of two days from the time of his execution.

In the case of the above mentioned malefactor we learn that superior skill in tricks and contrivances is but a readier way to death and destruction. Gaming ought to be avoided by young people as steadily as they would avoid walking blindfold to the edge of a precipice. Nothing leads so certainly to ruin. The gamester must, at the best, live a life of perpetual anxiety; and, if he thinks at all, can consi-

der himself only as a beast of prey, who is to be supported by the destruction of his fellow-creatures.

On the same gallows with Ramsey were also executed James Baquois and Joseph Allen, for highway robberies; Mary Page, for stealing goods; William Quait, a drummer in the Guards, for a robbery committed in St. James's Park; and John Glew Gailliford, for returning before the expiration of his sentence from transportation.

THOMAS LYELL AND LAWRENCE SYDNEY,

PILLORIED FOR FRAUD.

In April, 1740, these pests to society were committed to Newgate, charged, on the oaths of several gentlemen of distinction, with cheating and defrauding them, by the use of false and loaded dice, at a masquerade, on Thursday morning, about three o'clock, to the amount of four hundred pounds.

It also appeared on their examination, which lasted from six o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon, that they had cheated a number of other gentlemen of upwards of four thousand pounds more. Nine pair of dice were

found upon the sharpers, and, on being cut asunder, they were all, except one, loaded; that is, a piece of lead introduced in such a direction into the die, as, when it is thrown, will generally turn a number suited to the owner's game.*

They were brought to the bar of the Old Bailey for these infamous practices; and, after a long trial, in which scenes of iniquity were discovered to have been committed by sharpers of this description which astonished the Court and jury, Lyell and Sydney were found guilty, and sentenced to be im-

* A cause was tried before Lord Chief-Justice Kenyon, in 1796, on the statute against gaming, in which it was stated that every person who was three times successful paid the defendant a silver medal, which he purchased from him, on entering the house, at eight for a guinea, and he received seven or eight of these in the course of an hour for the box hands, as it was called. Sometimes 20*l.* or 30*l.* depended on a single throw of the dice. One morning a gentleman came in very much in liquor, who seemed to have a great deal of money about him. The defendant said he had not intended to play, but now he would set to with this fellow. He then scraped a little wax with his finger off one of the candles, and put the dice together, so that they came seven every way. After doing this, he dropped them into the box and threw them out, and afterwards drew all the money away, saying he had won it. A person has been seen to pawn his watch and ring in several instances; and once a man pawned his coat, and went away without it.

After the gaming-table was broken by the Bow Street officers, the defendant said it was too good a thing to be given up, and instantly got another table, large enough for twenty or thirty people. The frequenters of this house used to play till daylight; and on one or two occasions they played all the next day. This is what the defendant called 'sticking to it rarely!' The guests were furnished with wine and suppers gratis. The witness has seen more than forty people there on a Sunday. The table not being sufficient for the whole, half-a-crown used on such occasions to be given for a seat, and those behind looked over the backs of the others and betted.

prisoned one year, and during that time to be pilloried. Notwithstanding the law has provided against these illicit practices, and many convictions have taken place, yet, even in the present day, this pernicious practice is carried to a dreadful length.

On the 12th of June, 1742, above two years after the offence,

Thomas Lyell and Lawrence Sydney, the principals of the gang, were brought out of Newgate, and carried to the Haymarket, where a pillory had been erected to receive them, facing the Opera House, the scene of their depredations, amid the scoffs and taunts of an enraged populace.



Bradford, going to murder his Guest, finds the Deed already accomplished.

JONATHAN BRADFORD,

EXECUTED FOR A SUPPOSED MURDER.

JONATHAN BRADFORD kept an inn at the city of Oxford. A gentleman, (Mr. Hayes,) attended by a man-servant, put up one evening at Bradford's house; and in the night, the former being found murdered in his bed, the landlord was apprehended on suspicion of having committed the barbarous and inhospitable crime.

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The evidence given against him was to the following effect:—Two gentlemen who had supped with Mr. Hayes, and who retired at the same time to their respective chambers, being alarmed in the night with a noise in his room, and soon hearing groans, as of a wounded man, got up in order to discover the cause, and found their landlord, with a

dark lantern, and a knife in his hand, standing, in a state of astonishment and horror, over his dying guest, who almost instantly expired.

On this evidence, apparently conclusive, the jury convicted Bradford, and he was executed; but the fate of this man may serve as an additional lesson to jurymen to be extremely guarded in receiving circumstantial evidence. On a trial at Nisi Prius, and between personal right and wrong, the jury are often directed by the judge to take into consideration presumptive evidence where positive proof is wanting; but, in criminal charges, it seldom should, unsupported by some oral testimony, or ocular demonstration, be sufficient to find a verdict against the accused.

The facts attending the above dreadful tragedy were not fully brought to light until the death-bed confession of the real murderer, a

time when we must all endeavour to make our peace with God.

Mr. Hayes was a man of considerable property, and greatly respected. He had about him, when his sad destiny led him under the roof of Bradford, a considerable sum of money; and the landlord, knowing this, determined to murder and rob him. For this horrid purpose, he proceeded with a dark lantern and a carving-knife, intending to cut the throat of his guest while yet sleeping; but what must have been his astonishment and confusion to find his intended victim already murdered, and weltering in his blood?

The wicked and unworthy servant had also determined on the murder of his master; and had just committed the bloody deed, and secured his treasure, a moment before the landlord entered for the same purpose!!!

MARTIN NOWLAND,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THIS traitor was a native of Ireland, and, while a youth, was decoyed from his parents, conveyed to Dunkirk, and entered into the regiment of Dillon. In this station he continued fourteen years, at the end of which time he was sent to London, to enlist men into the French service; and was promised a promotion on his return, as a reward for the diligence he might exert.

On his arrival in London he endeavored to connect himself with people of the lower ranks, whom he thought most likely to be seduced by his artifices; and one day going on the quays near London Bridge, he met with two brothers, named Meredith, both of them in the army, but who occasionally worked on the quays, to make an addition to their military pay.

Having invited these men to a house in the Borough, he treated them with liquor; represented the emoluments that would arise from their entering into the French service; and, among other things, said that, exclusive of their pay, they would receive four loaves of bread weekly.

When they were thus refreshed Nowland prevailed on them to go to his lodgings in Kent Street, where he farther regaled them, and then said he hoped they would enter into the service. They expressed their readiness to do so; and said they could aid him in enlisting several other men, if he would spend the evening with them at a public house in the Strand.

This proposal being assented to, they took him to a famous alehouse

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near the Savoy, called the Coal-hole, where Nowland was terrified at the sight of several soldiers of the Guards; but the Merediths saying they were their intimate acquaintance, the parties adjourned to a room by themselves. Here the brothers asked Nowland how much they were to receive for enlisting, which he told them would be four guineas; and that he was commissioned to pay their expenses till they should join the regiment.

The intention of the brothers seems to have been to obtain some money of Nowland; but, finding it was not in his power to advance any while they remained in England, one of them went to the sergeant at the Savoy, informed him of what had passed, and asked him how he must dispose of Nowland. The sergeant said he must be detained for the night, and taken before a magistrate on the following day.

On the soldier's return to the public house Nowland produced a certificate, signed by the lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, as a proof that he was actually in the service of France. He likewise said that the soldiers must dispose of their clothes, and purchase others, to prevent their being detected at Dover; and he repeated his promise of the bounty-money, and other accommodations proper for a soldier, on their reaching the regiment.

When the Merediths, and the other men, had drank at Nowland's expense till they were satisfied, they conveyed him to the round-house, and on the following day took him before a magistrate, to whom, after some hesitation, he acknowledged that he had been employed to enlist men for the Irish brigades in the service of France.

Inquiry being made respecting his accomplices, he acknowledged that a captain belonging to his regi-

ment was in London, and that some other agents were soon expected in the kingdom: on which he was informed that he should be admitted an evidence if he would impeach his accomplices. He replied, 'that he was a man of honour, and would never be guilty of hanging any other person to save his own life.'

He was committed to Newgate in consequence of this confession, and, being brought to his trial, was convicted at the following sessions at the Old Bailey, and received sentence of death.

Nowland being of the Roman Catholic persuasion, it is not possible to give a particular account of his behaviour after conviction, as he declined holding any correspondence with the Ordinary of Newgate. When he came to the fatal Tyburn tree, on the 24th of February, 1742, he performed his devotions in his own way, and, being executed, his body was carried to St. Giles's, and soon afterwards buried in St. Pancras churchyard by some of his Roman Catholic friends.

The folly of a man's attempting to recruit the French army in London is more to be wondered at than the commission of the crime. This man, before he attempted to corrupt the allegiance of an Englishman, must surely have been apprized of the conviction and execution of Thomas Hennings, for enlisting a man for the King of Prussia, which took place just before he accepted a French commission to commit a similar crime. Little more can be said of Nowland's case than that it is treasonable in the highest degree, aiming a mortal blow at the constitution of our country, by enticing us to join our enemy. Yet we cannot, however, pass over the particulars, without expressing admiration at the loyalty of the soldiers whom he endeavored to corrupt.

JAMES ANNESLEY, Esq. AND JOSEPH REDDING,

TRIED FOR MURDER.

MR. ANNESLEY was the son of Arthur, late Lord Baron of Altham, of the kingdom of Ireland, by his wife, Mary Sheffield, (natural daughter of John, Duke of Buckingham,) to whom he was publicly married in the year 1706, contrary to the inclination of his mother, and all his relations, particularly Arthur, late Earl of Anglesea, who entertained an inveterate hatred to the duke; and for that reason did all in his power to set the marriage aside; but, finding that impossible, he never would be reconciled to Lord Altham, who was presumptive heir to his estate.

After a cohabitation of something more than two years, a separation took place between Lord Altham and his lady; and his lordship, having involved himself in debt by a life of dissipation, thought it prudent to retreat to Ireland, where he had a good estate; and, after some time, he and his lady were reconciled, through the influence of the Duke of Buckingham.

At the end of about a year from this reconciliation, Lady Altham was brought to bed of a son, whose singular life and adventures we are now to record. When the child was about two years of age, a second quarrel arose between his parents, and a second separation ensued; on which Lady Altham came to England, and lived in London, in the most retired manner, till the year 1729, when she paid the debt of nature.

In the interim Lord Altham lived at Dublin in the most extravagant style, kept the worst company, and paid little regard to the education of his son, who would at times have been deprived even of the common necessaries of life, but for the intervention of some farmers, who sup-

plied him with sustenance. Occasionally, indeed, his father would send for him; but was generally so intoxicated when he saw him, that the child reaped no advantage from these visits, and was soon reduced to a state of absolute penury.

Lord Altham dying, in the year 1726, a sacrifice to his own irregularities, his brother, Captain Richard Annesley, formed a scheme of succeeding to the Anglesea estate, by secreting the right heir; and for this purpose he made use of many artifices to get the youth into his possession: these failed for some time, as he was boarded and protected by a butcher named Parcel. The youth having acquainted Parcel that he was the son of Lord Altham, his story began to engage the public attention, and a counsellor at law took him into his protection, with a view of obtaining for him a legal claim to his hereditary possessions.

The youth had not been long in this station when he was found by the diligence of those who were employed to search for him, who forcibly dragged him on board a ship bound for Newcastle, on Delaware River, in America, where he was generally kept to hard labour, but occasionally indulged with the liberty of diverting himself with fishing and fowling.

One day, on his return from shooting, he met two Irishmen, to whom he communicated the particulars of his birth and connexions; and they, happening to remember several circumstances relating thereto, prevailed on the captain of a trading vessel to interest himself to procure his release from slavery.

This being effected, he hired himself as a common sailor in a trading vessel bound to Jamaica; and there, being entered on board one of his

majesty's ships under the command of Admiral Vernon, openly declared his parentage and pretensions. This extraordinary claim made a great noise in the fleet; and one of the midshipmen, hearing of it, said 'he had been schoolfellow with Lord Altham's son; and should know him again, if not greatly altered, as he still retained a perfect idea of his countenance.'

Hereupon it was proposed that the experiment should be tried; and the midshipman going on board the ship that the claimant was in for that purpose, all the sailors were assembled on deck, when the midshipman, casting his eyes around, immediately distinguished Mr. Annesley in the crowd; and, laying his hand on his shoulder, said, 'This is the man;' affirming, at the same time, that while he continued at school with him the claimant was reputed and respected as Lord Altham's son and heir, and maintained in all respects suitably to the dignity of his rank. Nay, he was in like manner recognised by several other persons in the fleet, who had known him in his infancy.

These things being reported to the admiral, he generously ordered him to be supplied with necessaries, and treated like a gentleman; and, in his next dispatches, transmitted an account of the affair to the Duke of Newcastle, among the common transactions of the fleet.

Mr. Annesley arriving in London towards the latter end of the year 1741, intelligence of this circumstance was immediately sent to Ireland, on which his uncle, who had heretofore treated him in so unworthy a manner, came to England, in order to carry on the scene of oppression which lay nearest his heart; but a gentleman, named M^r Kercher, having taken Mr. Annesley under his protection, sent him

to board at the house of a farmer near Staines, in Middlesex.

Mr. Annesley had not been long in this situation before an accident happened which greatly contributed to render his future life unhappy. Being passionately fond of sporting, he obtained leave of the gentlemen of Staines to permit him to shoot on their estates; and as he was what is called a fair sportsman, and a professed enemy to poachers, he went into the fields with Joseph Redding, who was gamekeeper to Sir John Dollen, in search of such people as might be found offending against the game-laws. They did not meet with any poachers for game; but, seeing Thomas Egglestone and his son fishing in a river belonging to the manor, they ran to the spot, in order to seize the net; when Egglestone opposing them, Mr. Annesley's gun went off accidentally, and killed him on the spot.

The son, having witnessed the death of his father, hastened to Staines, and informed the inhabitants of what had happened, several of whom went out in search of Annesley and Redding, whom they found at a farmhouse in the neighbourhood. The supposed offenders, being taken into custody, were sent to London, and lodged in the New Prison, and arraigned at the next sessions at the Old Bailey in consequence of bills of indictment which had been found against them by the grand jury.

After the trial had been put off one day, at the request of the counsel for the prosecution, the Court ordered it to be brought on. It is not in language to describe the unworthy part that his uncle, now become Earl of Anglesea, acted in this business. Exclusive of procuring an attorney to offer five hundred pounds to young Egglestone to

swear that Annesley pointed the gun at his father and pulled the trigger, he even appeared in person on the bench at the trial, in order to browbeat the unfortunate prisoner. It is asserted that the earl spent above a thousand pounds in this prosecution.

In his defence Mr. Annesley informed the Court that his education having been greatly neglected by those whose duty it was to have taken every possible care of it, such a defence as might suit his birth was not to be expected: but he said that 'the gun went off by accident; and, whatever might be the verdict of the jury, he should consider that unhappy accident as the greatest misfortune of his life.'

Redding urged in his defence that it was his duty, as gamekeeper, to seize all nets within the bounds of the manor.

The instructions given by the Court to the jury were, that, if they thought the gun went off accidentally, they should bring in a verdict of chance-medley; but that Mr. Annesley would be deemed guilty of manslaughter, unless it appeared that he was engaged in a lawful act. With regard to Redding it was observed, that as he seized the net under the protection of the law, as gamekeeper, it was but just that he should be protected by the law.

On Mr. Annesley's case four counsel argued several hours; and when the jury were possessed of all the requisite information, they went out of Court, and, having maturely deliberated on the affair, they returned with a verdict of 'Chance-medley,' which of course acquitted both the prisoners.

This singular transaction took place in May, 1742; but it may not be unentertaining to our readers to learn something of the future occurrences of Mr. Annesley's life.

Mr. M^cKercher, the disinterested friend of Annesley, now determined to exert his utmost endeavours to obtain for him the estate which was his undoubted right; and, with that view, took him to Ireland, where Mr. Annesley granted a lease to a person named Campbell, that the affair might be determined in a legal way. Campbell, taking possession of the estate of which he had thus obtained a lease, was driven from it by Lord Anglesea; on which a writ of ejectment was brought against the earl.

The cause was tried by a special jury of gentlemen of property, before the barons of the Exchequer in Ireland. More than a hundred witnesses were examined respecting the legitimacy of Mr. Annesley's birth, and the trial lasted fifteen days. Two servants who had lived in Lord Altham's family swore that Annesley was the son of a servant-girl, who had been debauched by Lord Altham; and a popish priest swore that he baptized the child as a bastard: but, to invalidate this last evidence, another priest swore that the former had received two hundred pounds as a gratuity for what he had sworn.

Mr. Annesley's being the son of Lady Altham was proved by the evidence of three women servants, who lived in the family at the time of his birth; and above ten persons who were present at his christening swore to several circumstances respecting his birth. Two ladies proved on oath the reconciliation of Lord and Lady Altham, who had resided at the house of the father of one of the deponents several months; and from thence the lady went into the country to be delivered.

It was sworn by a farmer that the child had been placed with him by Lord Altham as his son and heir; and that the farmer had

boarded him, though he had never been paid ; which, indeed, he attributed to the extravagant manner in which his lordship lived.

The attorney who had been employed to tamper with the witnesses against Mr. Annesley, on his trial at the Old Bailey, being brought to Ireland by Mr. M'Kercher, a doubt arose whether an attorney should reveal his client's secrets, when, after a debate of a whole day among the counsel, it was determined by the judges that the examination of the attorney ought to take place.

In consequence of this examination it appeared that several persons had been engaged to swear against Mr. Annesley at his trial in London ; and at the singular trial in Dublin, of which we are now speaking, the judges remarked that there was oath against oath : at length, however, the jury determined that Mr. Annesley was the real son of Lord and Lady Altham.

Notwithstanding this determination, the right heir could not take possession of his estate ; for a writ of error was brought against the verdict, and writs of appeal were lodged in the Houses of Peers of England and Ireland, as the estates in question were situated partly in each kingdom.

Mr. M'Kercher, having spent a considerable fortune in support of the claim of the injured party, was at length arrested for debt, and remained several years in prison ; and, in the mean time, Mr. Annesley was married to the daughter of

a farmer in whose house he had lodged, and lived afterwards in a most retired manner, being utterly disqualified, by his education and former way of life, from obtaining any decent support as a gentleman.

The Earl of Anglesea lived but a few years after the affair we have recorded, and left his estate greatly involved.

Mr. M'Kercher's situation now rendered him unable to minister to the necessities of Mr. Annesley, who occasionally obtained some small gratuities from the nobility, and died in the year 1761, after lingering out a life of perpetual anxiety and fruitless expectation ; but he never took a gun in his hand from the time of his unhappily killing the poor man.

Of all the extraordinary characters we have had occasion to remark on in the course of this work, that of Mr. M'Kercher is one of the most singular and valuable. He took up the cause of an unfriended youth, of whom he knew nothing but from report, and supported him through a long, an arduous, and an intricate business ; not, indeed, to the restitution of the sufferer, but to his own essential injury : for he spent more than ten thousand pounds in this pursuance of the rights of another.

Seldom shall we hear of so much disinterested benevolence as was displayed by this man ; seldom hear of greater, and more undeserved injuries, than were sustained by Mr. Annesley !

JOHN JENNINGS,

EXECUTED FOR A ROBBERY OF WHICH HE WAS INNOCENT.

THIS unfortunate man was rendered a victim by his master, in order to screen himself from the vengeance of the law. He was a waiter at the Bell Inn, near Hull,

in Yorkshire, kept by a villain of the name of James Brunel.

An old man, a reputed miser, who, for greater safety, generally carried a bag of gold about him,

having been robbed on the highway, soon after casually went into the Bell; and, going up to the bar, saw Brunel, the landlord, with one of his guineas in his hand, and some shillings, which he was paying away to a carrier, and which, being all marked, he could readily identify. He consequently suspected that the landlord was the robber, and related the circumstance to some persons in the house.

Brunel overheard the conversation, and, to secure himself, instantly formed and executed the horrid design of imputing the robbery to his waiter, Jennings, who had gone early to sleep in a state of intoxication. To this wicked end he went to his bed, and put the purse taken from the old man, with the greater part of its contents, in

the unfortunate waiter's pocket without waking him; and then, coming down to the company, told them that he believed he had found the thief. 'I have,' continued the villain, 'long suspected Jennings, one of my waiters, and about five hours ago I gave him a guinea to get changed: he came back in liquor, and returned me one which I am sure is not the same I gave him.' He then produced the guinea, which, being marked, was claimed by the old man. It was now proposed that Jennings should be searched, which was done, and the purse being found upon him, he was committed, tried, condemned, and executed at York in the year 1742.

Brunel, being convicted of another robbery, confessed these facts.

WILLIAM CHETWYND, CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER.

THIS youth was a scholar at an academy in Soho Square, and was about fifteen years of age at the time he unfortunately killed his school-fellow, Thomas Rickets, a youth then in his nineteenth year.

At the Old Bailey, in October, 1743, William Chetwynd was indicted for the murder of Thomas Rickets, and was likewise indicted on the statute of stabbing.

The affair on which the above prosecution was founded is as follows:

Young Chetwynd being in possession of a piece of cake, Rickets asked him for some of it, on which he gave him a small piece; but refusing to give him a second, which he desired, he cut off a piece for himself, and laid it on a bureau, while he went to lock up the chief part of the cake for his own use.

In the interim Rickets took the cake which had been left on the bureau, and, when Chetwynd re-

turned and demanded it, he refused to deliver it; on which a dispute arose, and Chetwynd, having still in his hand the knife with which he had cut the cake, wounded the other in the left side of the belly.

Hannah Humphreys, a servant in the house, coming at that time into the room, Rickets said that he was stabbed, and complained much of the pain that he felt from the wound: on which Humphreys said to Chetwynd, 'You have done very well;' to which the latter replied, 'If I have hurt him, I am very sorry for it.'

The wounded youth, being carried to bed, languished three days under the hands of the surgeons, and then expired. In the interim, Chetwynd, terrified at what had happened, quitted the school; but, as soon as he heard of the death of Rickets, he surrendered himself to a magistrate.

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The counsel in behalf of the prisoner acknowledged the great candour of the gentlemen who were concerned for the prosecution, in their not endeavoring to aggravate the circumstances attending the offence. They confessed the truth of all that had been sworn by the witnesses; but insisted, in behalf of the accused party, that, though his hand might have made an unhappy blow, his heart was innocent.

The following is the substance of their arguments on the case: They said, that the fact could not amount to murder at common law, which Lord Coke defines to be 'an unlawful killing another man with malice aforethought,' either expressed by the party, or implied by the law. They said, that in this case there was not the least malice, as the young gentlemen were friends, not only at the time, but to the close of Ricket's life, when he declared that he forgave the other.

They said, that it being proved that there was a friendship subsisting, it would be talking against the sense of mankind to say the law could imply any thing contrary to what was plainly proved. That deliberation and cruelty of disposition make the essential difference between manslaughter and murder; and they quoted several legal authorities in support of this doctrine.

One of their arguments was urged in the following words: 'Shall the young boy at the bar, who was doing a lawful act, be said to be guilty of murder? He was rescuing what was his own: the witnesses have told you that, after he had given Rickets a piece of cake, Rickets went to him for more: he denied to give it him: he had a right to keep his cake, and the other had no right to take it; and he had a right to retake it.

'There are cases in the books

which make a difference between murder and manslaughter. If a man takes up a bar of iron, and throws it at another, it is murder; and the difference in the crime lies between the person's taking it up and having it in his hand: Chetwynd had the knife in his hand, and upon that a provocation ensues, for he did not take the knife up; if he had, that would have shown an intention to do mischief. It may be doubted, when he had this knife in his hand for a lawful purpose, and in an instant struck the other, whether he considered he had the knife in his hand; for, if in his passion he intended to strike with his hand, and struck with the knife, not thinking it was in his hand, it is not a striking with the knife.

'That it was to be considered whether there was not evidence to except this case from the letter of the statute 1 James I.'

The other arguments of his counsel were to the following purpose:

'At the beginning of the fray, Rickets had a knife in his hand; and it was one continued act. And another question is, whether there was not a struggle? Here was the cake taken, and, in endeavoring to get it again, this accident happens. At the first taking of the cake, it is in evidence that Chetwynd was not forced to extend his arms, unless the other was coming to take it from him, and then a struggle is a blow.

'This act of the 1st James I. was made for a particular purpose: on the union of the two kingdoms there were national factions and jealousies, when wicked persons, to conceal the malice lurking in their hearts, would suddenly stab others, and screen themselves from the law by having the act looked

upon as the result of an immediate quarrel. That this statute has been always looked upon as a hard law, and, therefore, always construed by the judges in favour of the prisoner. That, when the fact only amounts to manslaughter at common law, it has been the custom of the Court to acquit upon this statute.'

The counsel for the crown, in reply, submitted it to the Court, 'whether (since the only points insisted on by way of defence for the prisoner were questions at law, in which the jury were to be guided by their opinion) the facts proved and admitted did not clearly, in the first place, amount to murder at common law? and, in the second place, whether there could be the least doubt in point of law but that that case was within the statute of 1 James I. ?

'Upon the first it was admitted, that to constitute murder there must be malice.

'But it was argued that malice was of two kinds—either expressed and in fact, or implied by law.

'But, when one person kills another without provocation, it is murder, because the law presumes and implies malice from the act done. And, therefore, whenever any person kills another it is murder, unless some sufficient provocation appear. But it is not every provocation that extenuates the killing of a man from murder into manslaughter. A slight or trivial provocation is the same as none, and is not allowed in law to be any justification or excuse for the death of another. And, therefore, no words of reproach or infamy, whatever provoking circumstances they may be attended with—no affronting gestures or deriding postures, however insolent or malicious—are allowed to be put in balance with *the life of a man*, and to extenuate

the offence from murder to manslaughter.

'For the same reason, no sudden quarrel upon a sudden provocation shall justify such an act of cruelty as one man's stabbing another, though it be done immediately in the heat of passion. As if two persons, playing at tables, fall out in their game, and the one upon a sudden kills the other with a dagger; this was held to be murder by Bromley, at Chester assizes.

'In like manner, no trespass on lands or goods shall be allowed to be any excuse for one man's attacking another in such a manner as apparently endangers his life, and could not be intended merely as a chastisement for his offence; because no violent acts beyond the proportion of the provocation receive countenance from the law.

'And, therefore, if a man beats another for trespassing upon his goods or lands, and does not desert, he will be justified by law; because what he does is only in defence of his property, and no more than a chastisement to the offender.

'But (says the Lord Chief Justice Holt) if one man be trespassing on another, breaking his hedges, or the like, and the owner, or his servant, shall, upon sight thereof, take up a hedge-stake, and knock him on the head, that will be murder; because it is a violent act beyond the proportion of the provocation.

'That, applying the rules of law to the present case, it was plain that the violent act done bore no proportion to the provocation. All the provocation given was taking up a piece of cake, which is not such an offence as can justify the prisoner's attacking the person who took it up with an instrument that apparently endangered his life, or rather carried certain death along with it.

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'On the second indictment it was said, that the counsel for the prisoner had in effect contended that the statute 1 James I. should never be allowed to comprehend any one case whatsoever, or extend to any one offender, which would entirely frustrate that statute; since it was only made in order to exclude such persons who stabbed others upon the sudden from the benefit of clergy; and was intended as a sort of correction to the common law, by restraining such offenders, through fear of due punishment, who were emboldened by presuming on the benefit of clergy allowed by the common law. But, if it is to exclude none from their clergy, who at common law would have been entitled to it, it can never have any effect, and may be as well repealed.

'And, if the statute is to have any force or effect at all, there can be no doubt but it must extend to the present case. It is expressly within the words: Mr. Rickets was stabbed, having then no weapon drawn in his hand, and not having before struck the person who stabbed him. It is plainly within the intention; which is declared in the preamble to have been in order to punish stabbing or killing upon the sudden, committed in rage, or any other passion of the mind, &c. and therefore it was submitted to the Court, whether, upon the facts proved, and not denied, the consequence of the law was not clear, that the prisoner was guilty within both indictments.'

Mr. Baron Reynolds and Mr. Recorder, before whom the prisoner was tried, taking notice of the points of law that had arisen, the learned

arguments of the counsel, and the many cases cited upon this occasion, were of opinion that it would be proper to have the facts found specially, that they might be put in a way of receiving a more solemn determination.

A special verdict was accordingly agreed on by all parties, and drawn up in the usual manner; viz. by giving a true state of the facts as they appeared in evidence, and concluding thus:—'We find that the deceased was about the age of nineteen, and Mr. Chetwynd about the age of fifteen; and that of this wound the deceased died, on the 29th of the said September; but whether, upon the whole, the prisoner is guilty of all or any of the said indictment, the jurors submit to the judgment of the Court.'

In consequence of this special verdict the case was argued before the twelve judges, who deemed Chetwynd to have been guilty of manslaughter only; whereupon he was set at liberty, after being burnt in the hand.

As we have given the opinion of the counsel in this case so fully, it will be the less necessary to make any long remarks on it; but it is proper that we should earnestly recommend to young gentlemen who are placed at seminaries of learning to avoid quarrels; to cultivate the friendship of each other; and to live in harmony, like so many brothers of the same family.

Thus will they acquire the esteem of their preceptors, rivet the love and affection of their parents and other relations, and take one essential step towards obtaining the blessing of God.

ROBERT FULLER,

CONVICTED OF SHOOTING MR. BAILEY.

This case is inserted chiefly to elucidate our several observations on identity; and here we shall find such doubts arising in the breasts

of the jury, that they recommended the prisoner to mercy in consequence.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of May, 1744, Robert Fuller, of Harefield, in Middlesex, was indicted for shooting at Francis Bailey, with a gun loaded with powder and small stones, and demanding his money, with intent to rob him.

Mr. Bailey deposed that, as he was returning from Uxbridge market, he saw a man near Harefield sitting on a stile, having a gun in his hand: that he jumped off the stile, seized the horse's bridle, clapped the gun to Mr. Bailey's body, and threatened to shoot him. Mr. Bailey said, 'That will do you no good, nor me neither:' he then put his hand repeatedly into Bailey's pocket; but the latter would not submit to be robbed, and rode off: immediately on which Fuller shot at him, and wounded him in the right arm, so as to break the bone in splinters; and many stones, and bits of the bone, were afterwards taken out of the arm; nor did the prosecutor recover of the wound till after languishing near twenty weeks.

The prisoner, however, had not an opportunity of robbing Mr. Bailey, as his horse took fright and ran away at the report of the gun.

The substance of Mr. Bailey's farther deposition was, that this happened about seven o'clock in the evening, on the 24th of February; but that, as it was a clear starlight night, he had a full view of the prisoner, whom he had known before.

Bailey was now asked if he had ever been examined before any justice of the peace in relation to the fact; to which he answered in the negative. He was then asked if he had never charged the crime on any other person except the prisoner,

which he steadily denied having done.

In contradiction to this a commitment was produced, in which Thomas Bowry was charged with assaulting Francis Bailey, with an intent to rob: and this Bowry was continued in custody, on the affidavit of Mr. Mellish, a surgeon, that Mr. Bailey was so ill of the wounds he had received that he could not come to London without danger of his life: but Bowry was discharged at the gaol-delivery at the end of the sessions for June, 1743.

The copy of Bowry's commitment was now read, and authenticated by Richard Akerman, clerk of the papers to his father, the then keeper of Newgate.

On this contradictory evidence the characters of both parties were inquired into; when that of the prosecutor appeared to be very fair, that of the prisoner rather doubtful.

Upon considering the whole matter, the jury gave a verdict that he was guilty, but, on account of the circumstance above mentioned, relating to the commitment of Bowry for the same offence, on Bailey's oath, they recommended the prisoner to the Court as a proper object of the royal clemency, and he was accordingly pardoned.

This affair is one of that intricate nature which must remain involved in mystery. It is impossible to say whether the prosecutor was or was not mistaken in the man against whom he swore; but we see that he had sworn the same fact, with equal positiveness, against Bowry: and this circumstance evinces the great propriety of the jury recommending the convict to mercy, where there is even but a bare probability remaining of his innocence; for in doubtful cases we should always incline to the side of mercy.

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LYDIA ADLER,

CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER.

THIS woman was tried at the Old Bailey, in June, 1744, for the wilful murder of her husband, John Adler, by throwing him on the ground, kicking and stamping on his groin, and giving him thereby a mortal bruise, of which he languished in St. Bartholomew's Hospital from the 11th till the 23d of May, and then died: and she was again indicted on the coroner's inquest for manslaughter.

Hannah Adler, daughter of the deceased, swore that he told her his wife had given him the wounds which afterwards occasioned his death.

Benjamin Barton deposed that the deceased came to him on the 11th of May, with a bloody handkerchief about his head, and asked him for a spare bed, saying, 'This eternal fiend (meaning his wife) will be the death of me:' but Barton, knowing the woman to be of a very turbulent disposition, refused to lodge the man. After this, he visited him every other day during his illness; and he very often said, 'I wish, Mr. Barton, you would be so good as to get a warrant to secure this woman, for she will be the death of me;' and, two hours before he died, he inquired if such a warrant was procured; and desired that Barton would see her brought to justice, which he promised he would, if it lay in his power.

Hannah Adler, being farther

questioned, said that her father died between twelve and one o'clock: that, about two hours and a half before, he said, 'I am a dead man, and this woman (the prisoner) has killed me.' That, after this, he repeatedly declared that his wife was the person that had murdered him, and begged that she might be brought to justice. His last declaration was made only about ten minutes before he died.

Mr. Godman, a surgeon, deposed that the husband died of a mortification, occasioned by a blow; but acknowledged that the deceased had a rupture, and that such a blow as he had received would not have hurt a person in sound health.

The prisoner, in her defence, said that her husband had two wives besides her; and that a quarrel happening between her and one of the others, the husband endeavored to part them, and, in so doing, fell down, and the other woman fell on him; but that she herself never lifted hand or foot against him.

Joseph Steel deposed that the deceased had had four wives; that he was kind to them all at the first, but afterwards used to beat them severely; and that he had seen the prisoner and her husband frequently fight together.

The jury gave a verdict of manslaughter; in consequence of which she was burnt in the hand.

PATRICK BOURKE AND GEORGE ELLIS,

EXECUTED FOR SHEEP-STEALING.

PATRICK BOURKE and George Ellis were indicted at the Old Bailey, in December, 1744, for killing fifteen ewe sheep, the property of John Messenger, of Kensington, with intention to steal part of the

carcasses, to wit, the fat near the kidneys.

Mr. Messenger deposed that he had lost fifteen ewes; that their throats were cut, their bellies ripped open, and the fat taken out: he

likewise said that he had lost twenty-seven lambs, which were taken out of their pens; and he deposed that both the prisoners confessed the crime before Sir Thomas Deane on the Tuesday following; and that Bourke acknowledged they had sold the fat to a tallow-chandler for forty-one shillings and two-pence halfpenny.

Richard Twyford proved the finding the sheep ripped open, and the fat taken out; and that the lambs were dragging by the sides of them; and were that the prisoners had owned the taking the gates from the farm to pen the sheep up.

Joseph Agnew, a constable, swore that Ellis came to him; and after having told him of a quarrel between him and Bourke, who had given him two black eyes, heacknow-

ledged that he had been concerned with him in the commission of the crime before mentioned. Hereupon the constable took with him three watchmen, and, going to Bourke's lodgings, seized him in bed, and found a clasp-knife lying on the ground near the foot of the bed, on which was some fat, which likewise remained when the knife was produced in Court on the trial.

Bourke, in his defence, said that he was kept drunk by the constable, in order to induce him to make a confession; but this not being credited by the jury, and there being other proofs of the fact having been acknowledged, they were capitally convicted, and, receiving sentence of death, were executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of February, 1745.

MATTHEW HENDERSON, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS offender was the son of honest parents, and born at North Berwick, in Scotland, where he was educated in the liberal manner customary in that country.

Sir Hugh Dalrymple being a member of the British parliament, he took Henderson into his service, when fourteen years of age, and brought him to London. Before he was nineteen years old he married one of his master's maids; but Sir Hugh, who had a great regard for him, did not dismiss him, though he was greatly chagrined at this circumstance.

Some few days before the commission of the murder, Sir Hugh, having occasion to go out of town for a month, summoned Henderson to assist in dressing him; and, while he was thus employed, Sir Hugh's lady going into the room, the servant casually trod on her toe. She said not a word on the occasion, but

looked at him with a degree of rage that made him extremely uneasy.

When Sir Hugh had taken his leave she demanded of Henderson why he had trodden on her toe; in answer to which he made many apologies, ascribing the circumstance to mere accident; but she gave him a blow on the ear, and declared that she would dismiss him from her service.

Henderson said it would be unnecessary to turn him away, for he would go without compulsion; but, reflecting that her passion would soon subside, he continued in his place, and was used with as much kindness as if the accident had not taken place.

Offended, however, by the insult that had been offered him, Henderson began to consider how he should be revenged; and at length came to the fatal resolution of murdering his mistress.

The day before his execution he made a confession in Newgate, which was taken in writing by the Ordinary, and from which the following particulars of this barbarous deed are taken:—

He first expresses a lively and suitable sense of his condition, and calls God to witness that this account contains the truth, the whole of the truth, and nothing but the truth.

He says he was born in the town of North Berwick, in Scotland, and turned of nineteen years of age: his father was still living, and accounted a very honest industrious man; his education was the best his father could afford, and his character, before this fact, blameless: his mother had been dead several years, which he mentions with satisfaction; because, as she loved him tenderly, he believed this affair would certainly have broken her heart.

He had lived with his master five years, (about three years in Scotland, and two in London,) and declares no servant could be better used than he was, and that he never had the least dislike to the deceased, for that she was a lady of great humanity, and greatly respected by all her servants; and his master a most worthy gentleman.

On March 25, 1746, about eleven at night, Mary Platt, the maid-servant, told him she would go and see her husband; and he said she might do as she pleased: she went, and took the key to let herself in again; he shut the door after her, and went and cleaned some plate in the kitchen. From thence he went up into the back parlour, where he used to lie, and let down his bed in order to go to sleep. He pulled off his shoes, and tied up his hair with his garter, and that moment the thought came into his head to kill his lady. He went down stairs into

the kitchen, and took a small iron cleaver, and, returning into his bed-chamber, sat down about twenty minutes, considering whether he should commit the murder. His heart relented, and he thought he could not do it; however, he concluded to perpetrate the deed, as there was none in the house but the deceased and himself.

He went up to the first landing-place on the stairs, and, after tarrying a minute or two, came down, shocked at the crime he was about to commit. He sat down on his bed for a little while, and then went up as far as the dining-room, but was again so shocked he could not proceed, and, coming down, sat on his bed some minutes, and had almost determined with himself not to commit the murder; but, he says, the devil was very busy with him, and that he was in such agonies as cannot be expressed. He went up again as far as the first window, and the watchman was going 'Past twelve o'clock.'

After the watchman had passed the door, and all was silent, he came down two or three steps, but presently went up again as far as his lady's room-door, having the cleaver all the time in his hand, and opened it, it not being locked: he went into the room, but could not kill her: he was in great fear and terror, and went out of the room as far as the stair-head, about three yards from her chamber-door, but immediately returned, with a full resolution to murder her.

He entered the room a second time, went to the bed-side, undrew the curtains, and found she was fast asleep. He went twice from the bed to the door in great perplexity of mind, the deceased being still asleep. He had no candle, and believes, if there had been a light, he could not have committed the mur-

der. He continued in great agonies, but at length, feeling where she lay, made twelve or fourteen motions with the cleaver before he struck at her.

The first blow he missed, but the second he struck her on the head, and she endeavored to get out of bed on that side next the door, and, when he struck her again, she moved to the other side of the bed, and spoke several words which he can't remember. He repeated his blows, and in struggling she fell out of bed next the window, and then he thought it was time to put her out of her misery, and struck her with all his might as she lay on the floor: she bled very much, and he cut the curtains in several places when he missed his blows.

All the words she said, when he struck her the third or fourth blow, were, 'O Lord, what is this?' She rattled in her throat very much, and he was so frightened that he ran down stairs, and threw the chopping-knife into the privy.

He then went into his bed-chamber again, and sat down on his bed for about ten minutes, when it came into his head to rob the house, which he solemnly declares he had no intention to do before he committed the murder. He directly struck a light, went into the deceased's bed-chamber, and took her pockets, a gold watch, and two diamond rings out of the drawers, with several other things: she was not dead then, but rattled very much in the throat, and he was so surprised that he scarcely knew what he did, and would have given ten thousand worlds could he have recalled what he had done.

When he had taken what he thought proper, he went into Holborn, where his wife lodged, and all the way he went he thought his murdered lady followed him. The

watchman was crying 'Past one o'clock' as he was going along Holborn, so that he was nearly a full hour in committing this most horrid deed.

He put what things he had taken into a box at his wife's lodgings, who asked him what he did there at that time of night, and several other questions; to all which he answered it was no business of hers: he solemnly declares his wife and every other person entirely innocent and ignorant of the fact.

He did not stay here more than a quarter of an hour, and then returned to his master's; but, by endeavoring to break the string with which he had fastened the door, he shut himself out, so that he was obliged to wait till the maid came home, which was about six o'clock: he told her he had been to get some shirts that were mending, and had locked himself out.

The maid, on opening the windows, discovered that there had been a robbery, and, by some blood on the stairs, suspected her lady was killed. On which he desired she would go into her lady's room, and see if it was really so: she consented, and he went to the door with her. She returned presently, crying out, 'It is so! It is so!' He then went and acquainted a gentleman, who was nephew to his master, that somebody had broke into the house. This gentleman, suspecting the maid, who had been out all night, took her before the justice, who thought proper, on hearing her examination, to send for Henderson. He was very ready to go, and declares he had no thought of escaping, though he had great opportunity so to do.

He at first denied the facts, and accused two innocent persons; but, being very much confounded by the cross questions then put to him, he

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at length confessed that he alone had perpetrated the horrid deed. He appealed to all that knew him for the irreproachableness of his life before this melancholy event happened, and again declared himself alone guilty of, and privy to, the murder, and that he was not prompted by either malice or interest, and never thought of com-

mitting so dreadful a crime until a short time before the perpetration of it.

This wretched man, on being brought to trial, pleaded guilty, and was executed at Tyburn, Feb. 25, 1746: his body was afterwards hung in chains on the Edgeware road.



Martha Tracy robbing Mr. Humphreys near Northumberland House, in the Strand.

MARTHA TRACY,

EXECUTED FOR A STREET ROBBERY.

THIS woman was a native of Bristol, and descended from poor parents, who educated her in the best manner in their power. Getting a place in the service of a merchant when she was sixteen years of age, she lived with him three years, and then came to London.

Having procured a place in a house where lodgings were let to single gentlemen, and being a girl of an elegant appearance, and fond

of dress, she was liable to a variety of temptations.

Her vanity being even more than equal to her beauty, she at length conceived that she had made a conquest of one of the gentlemen-lodgers, and was foolish enough to think he would marry her.

With a view of keeping alive the passion she thought she had inspired, she sought every pretence of going into his chamber; and he, having

some designs against her virtue, purchased her some new clothes, in which she went to church on the following Sunday, where she was observed by her mistress.

On their return from church, the mistress strictly inquired how she came to be possessed of such fine clothes; and, having learnt the real state of the case, she was discharged from her service on the Monday morning.

As she still thought the gentleman intended marriage, she wrote to him, desiring he would meet her at a public house; and, on his attending, she wept incessantly, and complained of the treatment she had met with from her mistress, which she attributed to the presents she had received from him.

The seducer advised her to calm her spirits, and go into lodgings, which he would immediately provide for her, and where he could securely visit her till the marriage should take place.

Deluded by this artifice, she went that day to lodge at a house in the Strand, which he said was kept by a lady who was related to him. In this place he visited her on the following, and several successive days; attending her to public places, and making her presents of elegant clothes, which effectually flattered her vanity, and lulled asleep the small remains of her virtue.

It is needless to say that her ruin followed. After a connexion of a few months, she found him less frequent in his visits; and, informing him she was with child, demanded that he would make good his promise of marriage: on which he declared that he had never intended to marry her, and that he would not maintain her any longer; and hinted that she should seek another lodging.

On the following day the mis-

tress of the house told her she must not remain there any longer, unless she would pay for her lodgings in advance, which being unable to do, or, perhaps, unwilling to remain in a house where she had been so unworthily treated, she packed up her effects, and removed to another lodging.

When she was brought to bed, the father took away the infant, and left the wretched mother in a very distressed situation. Having subsisted for some time by pawning her clothes, she was at length so reduced as to listen to the advice of a woman of the town, who persuaded her to procure a subsistence by the casual wages of prostitution.

Having embarked in this horrid course of life, she soon became a common street-walker, and experienced all those calamities incident to so deplorable a situation. Being sometimes tempted to pick pockets for a subsistence, she became an occasional visitor at Bridewell, where her mind grew only the more corrupt by the conversation of the abandoned wretches confined in that place.

We now come to speak of the fact, the commission of which forfeited her life to the violated laws of her country.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of January, 1745, she was indicted for robbing William Humphreys of a guinea on the king's highway.

The fact was, that being passing, at midnight, near Northumberland House, in the Strand, she accosted Mr. Humphreys, who declining to hold any correspondence with her, two fellows with whom she was connected came up, and one of them knocking him down, they both ran away; when she robbed him of a guinea, which she concealed in her

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mouth; but Mr. Humphreys seizing her, and two persons coming up, she was conducted to the watch-house, where the guinea was found in her mouth, as above mentioned, by the constable of the night.

At her trial it was proved that she had called the men, one of whom knocked down the prosecutor; so that there could be no doubt of her being an accomplice with them; whereupon the jury brought her in guilty.

After conviction she appeared to have a proper idea of her former guilt, and the horrors of her present situation. In fact she was a sincere penitent, and lamented that pride of heart which had first seduced her to destruction.

Martha Tracy was hanged at Tyburn, on the 16th of February, 1745, behaving with the greatest decency and propriety to the last moment of her life.

The fate of this woman affords a striking lesson to girls against the taking pride in those personal charms which, the more brilliant they are, will be only the more likely to lead them to destruction. The idea she had formed of making a conquest of a man in a rank of life superior to her own served only to assist towards her ruin; but we cannot help thinking that he who could be base enough to seduce her

under solemn promises of marriage was still more guilty than herself, and in some degree an accessory to all the crimes she afterwards committed.

It seems strangely unnatural that the father should take away the child, and leave the mother to perish, or to subsist only in a most infamous manner, for which she had been qualified by the gratification of his passions!

In the gay hours of festivity men may triumph in the advantages they have gained over women in their ungarded moments; but surely Reflection must come, with all her attendant train of horrors. Conscience will assert her rights; and the misery the wicked seducer suffers in this life he ought to consider only as a prelude to the more aggravated torments he has to expect in the next.

If any one of the readers of this narrative has been guilty of the enormous crime we are now reprobating, it will become him to think seriously of the great work of reformation; and to repent, in the most unfeigned manner, while Providence yet permits him the opportunity of repentance. It ought to be remembered, by offenders of every class, that the God of mercy is also a God of justice.

THE EARL OF KILMARNOCK AND THE LORD BALMERINO,

BEHEADED FOR HIGH TREASON.

HAVING given the history of the principal offenders who were executed for being concerned in the rebellion in 1715, our readers will naturally expect an account of those who suffered for the share they had in the subsequent insurrection; in which we shall be as particular as the limits of our plan will allow;

and, in our narrative of the unfortunate offenders, endeavour to divest ourselves of party prejudice as much as possible.

Great Britain being at war with France, and having an army in Flanders, the French thought that by making a descent in the north of Scotland, and fomenting a rebel-

lion, the court of London would think it necessary to withdraw the troops from Flanders, which would enable the French to act with more effect against the allied army.

That our government was not apprized of the preparations making to assist the Pretender is evident from the king's speech on the 2d of May, 1745, at the very time they were going on, wherein he informs his parliament, 'That the posture of affairs abroad had received a very considerable alteration, to the advantage of the common cause, and that thereby the influence of France was much weakened and diminished, and a way opened to restore that strength and power to our ancient and natural allies which would tend greatly to the re-establishment and security of the balance of Europe.' On the 10th, the king, having placed the government of the nation in the hands of John, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and nineteen other privy counsellors, embarked at Harwich, on a visit to Hanover.

The first notice which the British public had of the proceedings of the Pretender was from a paragraph in the *General Evening Post*, which said, 'The Pretender's eldest son put to sea July 14, from France, in an armed ship of sixty guns, provided with a large quantity of warlike stores, together with a frigate of thirty guns, and a number of smaller armed vessels, in order to land in Scotland, where he expected to find twenty thousand men in arms, to make good his father's pretensions to the crown of Great Britain. He was to be joined by five ships of the line from Brest, and four thousand five hundred Spaniards were embarking at Ferrol.'

The young Pretender, followed by about fifty Scotch and Irish ad-

venturers, came incog. through Normandy, and embarked on board a ship of war of eighteen guns, which was joined off Belleisle by the Elizabeth, and other ships. They intended to have sailed north-about, and have landed in Scotland. On the 20th they came up with an English fleet of merchant-vessels, under convoy of the Lion man of war, of fifty-eight guns, commanded by Captain Brett, who immediately bore down upon the French line-of-battle ship, which he engaged within pistol-shot five hours, being constantly annoyed by the smaller ships of the enemy. The rigging of the Lion was cut to pieces; her mizen-mast, mizen-topmast, main-yard, and fore-top-sail, were shot away; all her lower masts and top masts shot through in many places, so that she lay muzzled on the sea, and could do nothing with her sails. Thus situated, the French ships sheered off, and the Lion could make no effort to follow them. Capt. Brett had forty-five men killed; himself, all his lieutenants, the master, several midshipmen, and one hundred and seven foremast men, wounded. His principal antagonist, the Elizabeth, with difficulty got back to Brest, quite disabled, and had sixty-four men killed, one hundred and thirty-nine dangerously wounded, and a number more slightly. She had on board four hundred thousand pounds sterling, and arms and ammunition for several thousand men.

The French court, the expedition thus miscarrying, pretended ignorance of the circumstance.

Meanwhile, the Camerons, the Macdonalds, and many other clans, were in arms, in expectation of their friends from France. They came down into the lowlands in parties, carried off by force many

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men to fill their ranks, and committed various other disorders.

The Pretender, having embarked in another ship, again sailed from France, and eluded the English cruisers so as to give him an opportunity of landing, which he effected with his followers on the Isle of Sky, opposite to Lochabar, in the county of Inverness, about the end of the month of July, taking up his residence at the house of a papist priest, with whom he remained three weeks, while his emissaries were raising men for his service. At length, at the head of about two thousand, he began his march, under a standard on which was the motto 'Tandem triumphans'—*'At length triumphant.'*

The rebels now marched towards Fort William, where the young Pretender published a manifesto, which his father had signed at Rome, containing abundant promises to such as would adhere to his cause; two of which were, a dissolution of the union between the two kingdoms, and a payment of the national debt.

This circumstance induced many of the ignorant country people to flock to his standard, till at length his undisciplined rabble began to assume the appearance of an army, which struck terror to the well-affected wherever it came.

These transactions, however, had not passed so secretly, but that the governor of Fort William informed the Lord Justice Clerk of Edinburgh of all he could learn of the affair, on which the latter dispatched an express to the north, ordering the assistance of all officers, civil and military; and this express arrived about the time that the Pretender erected his standard.

The governor of Fort William, having received these orders, dispatched two companies of St. Clair's

and Murray's regiments of foot to oppose the rebels. These were attacked by a far superior number of Highlanders, which they contended against until they fired away all their ammunition; after which they were attacked in front, flank, and rear, and near half their number killed before they surrendered. Captain Scott, their brave commander, was wounded; but the rebels gave him and his remaining officers their parole of honour, while the private soldiers were sent to prison.

In the interim the Lord Justice Clerk directed Sir John Cope, commander-in-chief of the forces in the south of Scotland, to march against the rebels; but, in making the circuit of the immense mountains of Argyleshire, the two armies failed to meet; on which Sir John went to Inverness, to refresh his troops after the fatigue of the march.

The armies having thus casually missed each other, the rebels proceeded to Perth, and, having taken possession of that place, the Pretender issued his orders for all persons who were in possession of public money to pay it into the hands of his secretary, whose receipts should be a full acquittal for the same.

The rebel numbers had now greatly increased, and in September the Pretender issued a proclamation. The provost and magistrates left the city, and others were immediately appointed in their room. Here the rebels were joined by a person calling himself the Duke of Perth, Lord George Murray, Lord Nairn, the Hon. William Murray, Messrs. Oliphant, father and son, of Gask, George Kelly, Esq. (who, with the late Bishop of Rochester, was committed to the Tower, and thence escaped), and several other Scotch gentlemen of influence, with

their followers, making a formidable army.

The official papers distributed began thus: 'Charles, Prince of Wales, and Regent of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, and of the dominions thereto belonging.'

In the mean time General Cope sent from Inverness an express to Aberdeen, for the transport-vessels in that harbour to be ready to receive his troops; and, embarking on the 18th of September, he disembarked them at Dunbar.

During these transactions General Guest, who commanded the castle of Edinburgh, gave the magistrates of that city several pieces of cannon for the defence of the place; and Colonel James Gardiner repaired from Stirling thither, with two regiments of dragoons; but, learning that General Cope had landed at Dunbar, which is twenty-seven miles east of Edinburgh, he proceeded to effect a junction with that general.

On the 7th of September another party of rebels took possession of the town of Dundee, proclaimed the Pretender, searched for arms, and levied money on the inhabitants, giving receipts for the same. They seized a ship, and steered her to Perth, supposing there was gunpowder on board. On the 11th they left Perth, and marched that day to Dumblaine, twenty miles; but the next day only two, to Down. Their army crossed the Forth at the fords of Frews on the 13th (General Blakeney having destroyed the bridge), and directed their course towards Glasgow; but they shortly after turned to the eastward, and marched by Falkirk to Callington, four miles from Edinburgh.

The following day the Pretender proceeded through the Royal Park, and took possession of Holyrood

House. The money in the bank of Edinburgh, and the records in the public offices, were now removed to the castle for security, and the gates of the city were kept fast during the whole day; but five hundred of the rebels, having concealed themselves in the suburbs, took an opportunity, at four o'clock the next morning, to follow a coach which was going in, and, seizing the gate called the Netherbow, they maintained their ground while the main body reached the centre of the city, and formed themselves in the Parliament Close.

Thus possessed of the Scottish capital, they seized two thousand stand of arms, and, on the following day, marched to oppose the royal army under the command of General Cope; and the two armies being within sight of each other, near Preston Pans, on the evening of the 20th, Col. Gardiner earnestly recommended it to the general to attack them during the night; but, deaf to this advice, he kept the men under arms till morning, though they were already greatly harassed.

At five in the morning the rebels made a furious attack on the royal army, which was thrown into unspeakable confusion by two regiments of dragoons falling back on the foot. Colonel Gardiner, with five hundred foot, behaved with uncommon valour, and covered the retreat of those who fled; but the colonel receiving a mortal wound, the rebels made prisoners of nearly all the rest of the king's troops.

The following account of this disaster was issued from Whitehall, London:

'By an express arrived this morning, we are informed that Sir John Cope, with the troops under his command, was attacked by the rebels on the 21st instant, at day-

break, at Preston, near Seaton, seven miles from Edinburgh; that the king's troops were defeated; and that Sir John Cope, with about four hundred and fifty dragoons, had retired to Lauder.'

The loss sustained by the king's troops was:—killed, three hundred; wounded, four hundred and fifty; taken prisoners, five hundred and twenty; total, one thousand two hundred and seventy.

The rebels did not lose more than fifty men.

Flushed with this partial victory, the insurgents returned in high spirits to Edinburgh. They now sent foraging troops through the country, with orders to seize all the horses and waggons they could find; and, in the interim, a party of them attempted to throw up an intrenchment on the castle-hill. Hereupon the governor, necessitated to oppose the assailants, yet anxious for the safety of the inhabitants, sent a messenger in the night to intimate to those who lived near the castle-hill that they would do well to remove out of danger.

As soon as it was daylight the battery of the rebels was destroyed by a discharge of the great cannon from the Half-moon, and thirty of them killed, with three of the inhabitants, who had rashly ventured near the spot.

The governor being greatly deficient in provisions, a gentleman ordered above fifty fine bullocks to be driven into the city, on a pretence that they were for the use of the rebels; and the persons who drove them leaving them on the castle-hill, the governor and five hundred men sallied forth, and drove them in at the gate, while the rebels played their artillery with unremitting fury.

While these misguided men continued in Edinburgh, which was about seven weeks, some noblemen

and their adherents joined them; so that their army became almost ten thousand strong. They now levied large contributions, not only in Edinburgh, but through the adjacent country; and those who furnished them obtained receipts, signed 'Charles, Prince Regent.'

The officers taken at the battle of Preston were admitted to their parole, but the privates were ill treated. Their allowance was only three halfpence each per day, and their prison filthy, and destitute of accommodations. This was practised in order to induce them to enlist under the banners of the Pretender, and they were tampered with, promised the best treatment, new clothing, and five guineas per man, on their 'taking St. James's Palace.' One hundred and twenty, oppressed by hunger on the one hand, and tempted by hope of gain on the other, were not able to withstand these double incentives, and turned rebels and papists, thus forfeiting both their honour and their lives.

About this time some ships from France arrived in the Forth, laden with ammunition; and a person who accompanied the Pretender was dignified with the title of ambassador from his Most Christian Majesty.

General Wade had now the command of some forces which had reached Yorkshire; and some Dutch troops being sent to augment these, he marched to Newcastle, with a view to deter the rebels from entering the southern part of the kingdom.

That celebrated prelate, the late Dr. Herring, Archbishop of York, distinguished himself gloriously on this interesting occasion. Joining with the high-sheriff to assemble the freeholders, the archbishop preached an animated sermon to them; and then the several parties agreed to assist each other in support of

their civil and religious rights. Many people in Yorkshire were prevented from engaging in the rebellion by this spirited and well-timed conduct.

The Lord President Forbes and the Earl of Loudon acted in a manner equally zealous in Scotland. Having collected a number of the loyal Highlanders into a body, many others who would have joined the rebels were thereby deterred; and this proceeding proved of the most essential service towards the suppression of the insurrection.

The rebels quitting Edinburgh in the beginning of November, marched to Dalkeith, where they encamped; and a report was circulated that they proposed to make an attack on Berwick; but this was only a contrivance to conceal their real designs.

In the mean time more than a thousand of the insurgents deserted, in consequence of General Wade's publishing a pardon to such as would return to their duty as good subjects within a limited time. Still, however, they had above eight thousand men able to bear arms; yet General Wade would have marched to attack them, but that his soldiers were ill of the flux, owing to the severity of the season and the fatigues they had undergone.

Emboldened by success, and their force again increased, the rebels now determined to penetrate into England. On Saturday, the 9th of November, about three o'clock in the afternoon, the inhabitants of the ancient city of Carlisle were thrown into the greatest alarm at seeing a body of them on Stanwix Bank, within a quarter of a mile of them; and, it being market-day there, they mixed with the country people returning home, so that it was not possible for the garrison to

fire upon them for some time, without risk of injuring their neighbours along with their enemies; but in less than half an hour the country people dispersed themselves, and then the garrison of the castle fired a ten-gun battery upon them, which, it is believed, killed several; when, evening coming on, they retreated to a greater distance from the city, and the garrison stood all the night under arms. At two in the morning a thick fog took place, which remained till twelve that day, when it cleared up for about an hour, and then the garrison discovered the rebels approaching to attack the city in three several parties, viz. one at Stanwix Bank, commanded by the Duke of Perth; another at Shading-gate Lane, commanded by the Marquis of Tullibardine, who also had the artillery; and the third in Blackwell Fields, where the Pretender commanded the rest of their body, facing the English gate. Upon discovering these three parties approaching so near to the city, the garrison fired upon them, viz. the four-gun battery upon the Marquis of Tullibardine, who was heard to say, 'Gentlemen, we have not metal for them—retreat;' which they immediately did, and disappeared. The turret guns and the citadel guns were fired upon the Pretender's division, where the white flag was displayed, which was seen to fall; about the same time the ten-gun battery was fired upon the Duke of Perth's division, who also retired. Then the thick fog struck up again, and all the inhabitants of the city expected nothing but that a general assault would be made by the rebels, against which the walls were well lined with men; and several gentlemen of note were all night under arms to encourage and assist them. The militia was also drawn

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up at the foot of Castle Street, to be ready, in case of an attack, to relieve and reinforce the men upon the walls. On Monday morning, the fog still continuing thick, the garrison could not observe the situation of the rebels, but heard their pipers playing not far from the English gate. About ten o'clock a man was let down from the city walls, to reconnoitre the enemy; and he found they were retiring towards Warwick Bridge. In the afternoon other spies were likewise detached to observe their motions, and discovered a great number remaining about Warwick Bridge; but the Pretender, with his guard and attendants, were removed to Brampton, where they lodged themselves that night; and on Tuesday they lay idle from all action, except feats of rapine and plunder; for they spent the day in hunting and destroying the sheep of Lord Carlisle's tenants, and bearing off the country-people's geese and other poultry. They also seized upon all the horses they could lay hands on, without any question relating to value or property; notwithstanding they declared the design of their expedition was to redress grievances and correct abuses. Tuesday night the rebels remained quiet. —On Wednesday morning, about ten o'clock, they displayed the white flag at Warwick Bridge end, to which they were about three hours in repairing. About one, the Young Pretender, attended by Lord George Murray, the Duke of Perth, and several others, besides those called his guard, came to them; upon which they formed themselves, and began to march again to Carlisle, in the following order: first, two (named hussars) in Highland dresses, and high rough red caps, like pioneers; next about half a dozen of the chief

leaders, followed by a kettle-drum; then the young Pretender himself, at the head of about a hundred and ten horse, called his guards, two and two abreast; after these, a confused multitude of all sorts of mean people, to the number, as was supposed, of about six thousand. In this order they advanced to the height of Warwick Moor, where they halted about half an hour, and took an attentive view of the city; from thence the foot took the lead, and so marched to Carlisle about three in the afternoon, when they began a fresh assault, and the city renewed their fire. On Thursday it was discovered that the insurgents had thrown up a trench, which intimidated the town; and in a consultation it being resolved to capitulate, a deputation was sent to the Pretender, at Brampton, and the town and castle were delivered up on Friday morning.

About this period King George II. arriving in London from his continental dominions, both Houses of Parliament immediately assembled, and a bill was passed for suspending the Habeas Corpus Act for six months; by which measure the king was, for that period, empowered to seize all suspected persons, and commit them to prison, without specifying the reason of such commitment.

The effects of this act were the apprehension and commitment of many suspected persons in both kingdoms; but it did not appear to stop the progress of the rebellion; for the insurgents had by this time reached Manchester, where they raised a regiment consisting chiefly of Roman Catholics.

The whole kingdom was now in a ferment, and every loyal subject was anxious for his personal security. The Duke of Cumberland being in Flanders, it was judged

advisable to send for him to take the command of the king's forces.

About the time he arrived in London the rebels had advanced as far as Derby; but his royal highness lost no time in travelling into Staffordshire, where he collected all the force he could, to stop their farther inroads into the kingdom.

Liverpool had not been behind London in spirit and loyalty. The inhabitants contributed largely in assisting the royal army, at this inclement season, with warm clothing, and raised several companies of armed men, which were called the Royal Liverpool Blues. Some of the advanced parties of rebels having appeared in sight of the town, every preparation was made to resist them. Finding, at length, that the Pretender bent his march by another route for Manchester, the Liverpool Blues marched in order to destroy the bridges, and thereby impede their progress. This service they effected, breaking them down at Warrington, over the river Mersey, as far as Stockport. They seized two of the rebels, whom they handcuffed and sent to Chester gaol.

Notwithstanding these impediments, the rebels crossed the Mersey at different fords, through which the Pretender waded breast high in water. Their numbers could not be accurately ascertained, their march being straggling and unequal, but about nine thousand appeared the aggregate. Their train of artillery consisted of sixteen field-pieces of three and four pound shot, two carriages of gunpowder, a number of covered wagons, and about one hundred horses, laden with ammunition. Their van-guard consisted of about two hundred cavalry, badly mounted, the horses appearing poor and jaded.

On entering the town of Mac-

clesfield, they ordered the usual bellman to go round and give notice that billets must forthwith be ready for five thousand men, their first division, on pain of military execution. The Pretender himself constantly marched on foot, at the head of two regiments, one of which was appropriated as his body-guard. His dress was a light plaid, belted about with a sash of blue silk: he wore a grey wig, with a blue bonnet, and a white rose in it, and appeared very dejected at this time. His followers were ordinary, except the two regiments mentioned, which appeared to have been picked out of the whole. The arms of the others were very indifferent. Some had guns, others only pistols, the remainder broad swords and targets. They committed various depredations in their progress, seizing all the horses, and plundering the houses and the farmyards.

In this manner they proceeded to Derby. At Manchester it was apprehended, and not without reason, that they might have reached the metropolis, the duke not being fully prepared to oppose them; or that, by their retrograde motions, he might have missed them, as happened in the outset with Sir John Cope in the mountains of Argyleshire. Though we cannot, consistently with the plan of our work, occupy many more pages upon this subject, yet, all-important as it was at the time it occurred, and its history doubtless new to the younger part of our readers, we will give some description of the behaviour of this rebellious faction on their march, with the panic which seized them, and their flight back again to Scotland.

On the 28th of November an advanced party of rebels entered Manchester, immediately beat up

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for volunteers, and enlisted several papists and nonjurors; to whom they *promised* five guineas each, but gave them little more than white cockades, and what they called enlisting money. They then ordered quarters to be prepared for ten thousand men. Upon the arrival of the main body, a detachment examined the best houses, fixed upon one for the Pretender, and others for the principal officers. They ordered the bellman to go round the town, and give notice to all persons belonging to the excise, innkeepers, &c. forthwith to appear, and bring their acquittances and rolls, and all the ready cash they had in their hands belonging to government, on pain of military execution. The Pretender was then proclaimed King of England, and the terrified inhabitants were ordered to illuminate their houses.

In order to deceive the Duke of Cumberland, whose army was augmenting in Staffordshire, sometimes they gave out that their route was for Chester; then to Knutsford, Middlewich, and Nantwich; at other times they pretended they were going into Wales. The duke, however, took those measures which could not fail of checking their progress, should they push for London. He concentrated the troops near Northampton, a position which the rebels could not pass, by the direct road, without risking a battle. It was still apprehended that with forced marches, and advancing very rapidly, they meant to avoid the duke, by a circuitous route through Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Fortunately, they trifled away much time in raising regiments, a proposition of Mr. Townley, who was appointed a colonel, afterwards taken prisoner at Carlisle, and, among many others, hanged, as we shall hereafter describe.

These daring traitors had despoiled the country as far as Derby before they were convinced of the danger they were incurring. Finding, however, that the duke was awaiting their farther progress, advantageously posted, and in force which they appeared unwilling to encounter, a panic overcame them; and they had barely measured a mile on the road to London, when they halted, held a consultation, wheeled round, and retraced their steps to Derby. On their second visit to this already oppressed town they levied contributions to a large amount, and threatened destruction to it unless instantly complied with. They took what was hastily brought to them, meanly plundered whatever fell in their way, and departed sullen and dejected.

From this moment they sought to regain Scotland, and by forced marches the duke pursued them. However oppressive their conduct in advancing, they committed murder and wanton mischief, and seized whatever they could carry off, in their retreat.

The rebels in arms in Scotland had, before this, been joined by some French troops, the commander of which declared that he invaded the British dominions in the name of, and for his master, Louis XV.; and, about this period, the Pretender's army received the agreeable news that Lord Drummond had defeated the Highlanders commanded by the Earl of Loudon, and had arrived at Perth with three thousand men.

It is high time, in our summary of this very remarkable epoch of the British history, which might fill an interesting volume, to take a view of the proceedings of the gallant Duke of Cumberland. On the 6th of December he was at Coventry with the horse and the infantry

encamped upon Meridon Common, where they received the warm clothing subscribed for in London, Liverpool, and other towns. On the 9th he pushed on at the head of the cavalry, and a thousand fresh volunteers mounted, in pursuit of the rebels, with a view to skirmish with them until the foot came up; but they fled at their utmost speed through Ashbourn, Leek, Macclesfield, Manchester, Leigh, Wigan, and Preston.

In order to enable the duke to continue his pursuit, the gentlemen of Staffordshire provided horses to carry the foot soldiers. The flourishing town of Birmingham followed this laudable example; and Sir L. Holt, of Ashton Hall, near thereto, furnished two hundred and fifty, sending even his coach-horses on this service: for which he received the thanks of the English commander-in-chief.

Field-marshal Wade, with his detachment of the British army, was at this time at Wakefield. It had been resolved, in a council of war held on the 8th at Ferrybridge, to march with all expedition into Lancashire, to cut off the retreat of the rebels back to Scotland; but, finding they had proceeded too far in their flight to effect this, he dispatched General Oglethorpe with the cavalry, to hang upon and harass their rear.

The French force which landed in favour of the rebels brought with them a train of artillery of such heavy metal as to require about a dozen of their horses to draw an eighteen-pounder. With this train they advanced from Montrose to Perth, by Brechin. They had every difficulty to encounter; the season rendered the roads extremely bad, and the country-people annoyed them in all directions.

At Preston, the rebels, wearied

with incessant marches for the last three or four days, were compelled to halt a day. This being made known to the Duke of Cumberland, he redoubled his efforts to overtake them with his cavalry. He had been recently joined by General Oglethorpe, whose squadrons had moved from Doncaster without a halt, and in three days had gained a hundred miles over snow and ice. By pushing the horses to the utmost, the duke actually entered Preston only four hours after the rear of the rebels had left it; but in turn he was now compelled to halt and refresh.

At Kendal the country rose upon the retreating insurgents: they took three of their men, two women, and several horses; in doing which three of the people were killed. The Pretender halted at Shap the same night; and, fearing to be treated in like manner at Penryth, he endeavored to avoid that town, in which attempt he was met by a great number of the incensed inhabitants on Lazenby Moor; upon which they turned off to Temple Sowerby, but were hunted and galled the whole day, and at length driven into Orton. Here they could wait only to feed their horses in the street, and then set forward, having pressed a guide; but were pursued by the loyal people of Appleby and Brough, who took the Duke of Perth's mistress and another gentlewoman, their carriage having broken down. By way of retaliation, the rebels committed great spoiliations as they passed, plundering houses and shops, destroying goods, and depriving men of their shoes, stockings, breeches—nay, often stripping them altogether.

After several forced marches, the Duke of Cumberland at length came up with the rebels at Louth Hall, which they had taken possession of, but abandoned it on his approach,

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and threw themselves into the village of Clifton, three miles from Penryth. The dragoons immediately dismounted, and made so vigorous an attack, that in about an hour's time the rebels were driven, though in a strong and defensible post. It became dark before the assault was over, and thus it was rendered impossible to calculate their loss, or to pursue them. Of the king's forces, forty were killed and wounded; and among the latter were Colonel Honeywood, Captain East, and the Cornets Owen and Hamilton. These officers declared that, when fallen, the rebels struck at them with their broad swords, crying, 'No quarter! kill them!' They then carried off their wounded, and fled to Carlisle, which city they held possession of since its disgraceful capitulation, and which the English made immediate preparation to invest.

A fresh detachment from Marshal Wade having joined the duke, with a train of battering cannon from Whitehaven, he began his line of march for Carlisle, and gave orders for raising the *posse comitatus* (the whole body of the people). Upon his near approach, he found that the main body of the rebels had abandoned the city for Scotland, leaving behind a garrison. He, however, invested it in all quarters, and the besieged fired their cannon with great fury, but little execution.

During these operations the Sea-horse frigate captured a large ship, a part of a small French fleet full of troops and warlike stores, destined for Scotland, and brought her into Dover. On board were twenty-two officers, all of whom were Scotch and Irish, provided with commissions from the King of France, and a proportional number of soldiers.

To return to Carlisle:—the Duke

of Cumberland threw up batteries to bombard it, while the rebels burnt part of the suburbs, and hanged three of the inhabitants. The batteries, which took several days in constructing, being completed, were opened upon the city; but towards evening, the ammunition being expended, they ceased, waiting for a fresh supply, which, however, fortunately arrived next day, and the cannonade was resumed; but, upon the rebels hoisting a white flag, it again ceased. In about two hours a rebel officer advanced with a flag of truce, and a letter, signed 'John Hamilton, Governor of Carlisle.' This letter proposed hostages to be given and exchanged, in order to prepare a capitulation. To this the Duke of Cumberland returned for answer, 'That he would make no exchange of hostages with rebels.' Another flag arrived from the self-called governor, desiring to know what terms the duke would grant him and his garrison. To this it was answered, that the utmost terms he would grant were, 'not to put them to the sword, but to reserve them for his Majesty's pleasure;' whereupon he surrendered the city, praying the duke to intercede for his majesty's royal clemency, and that the officers' clothes and baggage might be safe; and at three in the afternoon of the 30th of December the King's troops once more took possession of the devoted city of Carlisle.

This service being performed, and information being received that the French had an intention of invading England, the Duke of Cumberland went to London to give his advice as a privy counsellor, in consequence of an express demanding his attendance.

The main body of the rebels, we have observed, had left Carlisle, and in haste moved forward to

Scotland. We pass over their destructive march, until we find the Pretender at Glasgow,* the second city of that part of Great Britain. Having levied contributions in this town, they proceeded towards Stirling, in possession of the English, commanded by the gallant General Blakeney. The gates could not be defended; they therefore marched in, and summoned the garrison to surrender; but the veteran commander answered that 'he would perish in its ruins rather than make terms with rebels.' In the river of the town were two English men of war; and the rebels, in order to prevent their going farther up, erected a battery, which the ships soon destroyed, and caused them to retreat a mile, where they erected another, but did little execution. They now prepared for a vigorous attack upon the castle, got some heavy pieces of ordnance across the Forth, erected a battery against it, and called in all their forces. General Blakeney fired upon them, and repeatedly drove them from their works.

General Hawley, at the head of such troops as he could form in order of battle, marched to attempt to raise the siege; but the rebels made a desperate attack, at the commencement of which his artillery horses, terrified, broke their traces, and ran away. Some of the dragoons, seeing this, also gave way; and, in short, the rebels had the advantage.

At the beginning of the battle a violent storm of snow and rain arose, which blew and beat in the faces of the English. General Hawley retreated to Linlithgow. His powder

was found spoiled by the excessive rains of that and the preceding day; not a musket in five went off; and, the drivers of his waggons running off with the impressed horses, he was compelled to burn his tents and other stores, and to abandon nearly the whole of his artillery.

Edinburgh being again in possession of the English, and fears entertained that the rebels meant to abandon the siege of Stirling, and proceed thither, General Hawley was ordered to post himself between those places. The rebels, abandoning Stirling, laid siege to Fort William; but, after a long attack, in which they fired hot bars, in hopes of setting it on fire, they gave up that design also.

Various were the skirmishes in different parts of Scotland, and frequently to the advantage of the rebels, until it was at length resolved in council to take such steps as might effectually crush the rebellion. Hereupon the Duke of Cumberland set out for Scotland, and, taking the command of the army, immediately marched in pursuit of the rebels. The particulars of this march we shall not enumerate; but, for the purpose of bringing our history to a close, present the two armies in order of battle at Culloden; the result of which crushed this rebellion. They were respectively commanded by the duke and the Pretender in person; and the following, taken from the London Gazette, is the conqueror's account of the battle:—

'On Tuesday the 15th of April the rebels burnt Fort Augustus, which convinced us of their resolution to stand an engagement with

* On his arrival at Glasgow, the Pretender sent for the provost, (the principal officer of the city,) and demanded the names of all those who had subscribed for raising troops against him, threatening to hang him on his refusal. To this the provost replied, 'I will not give up the name of any one person in the city; but I myself subscribed more than any other. I thought it my duty, and I am not afraid to die in such a cause.'

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the king's troops. We gave our men a day's halt at Nairn, and on the 16th marched from thence, between four and five, in four columns. The three lines of foot (reckoning the reserve for one) were broken into three from the right, which made the three columns equal, and each of five battalions. The artillery and baggage followed the first column upon the right, and the cavalry made the fourth column on the left.

'After we had marched about eight miles, our advanced guard, composed of about forty of Kingston's, and the Highlanders, led by the quarter-master-general, perceived the rebels, at some distance, making a motion towards us on the left, upon which we immediately formed; but, finding the rebels were still a good way from us, and that the whole body did not come forward, we put ourselves again upon our march in our former posture, and continued it to within a mile of them, where we formed in the same order as before. After reconnoitring their situation, we found them posted behind some old walls and huts, in a line with Calloden House. As we thought our right entirely secure, General Hawley and General Bland went to the left with the two regiments of dragoons, to endeavour to fall upon the right flank of the rebels; and Kingston's horse was ordered to the reserve. The ten pieces of cannon were disposed, two in each of the intervals of the first line; and all our Highlanders (except about one hundred and forty, which were upon the left with General Hawley, and who behaved extremely well) were left to guard the baggage.

'When we were advanced within five hundred yards of the rebels, we found the morass upon our right was ended, which left our right flank

quite uncovered to them: his royal highness thereupon immediately ordered Kingston's horse from the reserve, and a little squadron of about sixty of Cobham's, which had been patrolling, to cover our flank; and Pulteney's regiment was ordered from the reserve to the right of the Royals.

'We spent above half an hour, after that, trying which should gain the flank of the other; and his royal highness having sent Lord Bury forward within a hundred yards of the rebels, to reconnoitre somewhat that appeared like a battery to us, they thereupon began firing their cannon, which was extremely ill served and ill pointed: ours immediately answered them, which began their confusion. They then came running on in their wild manner; and upon the right, where his royal highness had placed himself, imagining the greatest push would be there, they came down three several times within a hundred yards of our men, firing their pistols and brandishing their swords; but the Royals and Pulteney's hardly took their firelocks from their shoulders, so that after those faint attempts they made off, and the little squadrons on our right were sent to pursue them. General Hawley had, by the help of our Highlanders, beat down two little stone walls, and came in upon the right flank of their second line.

'As their whole first line came down to attack at once, their right somewhat outflanked Barrel's regiment, which was our left; and the greatest part of the little loss we sustained was there: but Bligh's and Sempill's, giving a fire upon those who had outflanked Barrel's, soon repulsed them; and Barrel's regiment and the left of Monro's fairly beat them with their bayonets. There was scarce a soldier or officer

of Barrel's, and of that part of Menro's which engaged, who did not kill one or two men each with their bayonets and spontoons.*

'The cavalry, which had charged from the right and left, met in the centre, except two squadrons of dragoons, which we missed, and they were gone in pursuit of the runaways. Lord Ancram was ordered to pursue with the horse as far as he could; and did it with so good effect that a very considerable number was killed in the pursuit.

'As we were on our march to Inverness, and were nearly arrived there, Major-general Bland sent the annexed papers, which he received from the French officers and soldiers surrendering themselves prisoners to his royal highness. Major-general Bland had also made great slaughter, and took about fifty French officers and soldiers prisoners in his pursuit.

'By the best calculation that can be made, it is thought the rebels lost two thousand men upon the field of battle and in the pursuit. We have here one hundred and twenty-two French and three hundred and twenty-six rebel prisoners. Lieutenant-colonel Howard killed an officer, who appeared to be Lord Strathallan by the seal and different commissions from the Pretender found in his pocket.

'It is said Lord Perth, Lord Nairn, Lochiel, Keppock, and Appin Stuart, are also killed. All their artillery and ammunition were taken, as well as the Pretender's, and all their baggage. There were also twelve colours taken.

'All the generals, officers, and soldiers, did their utmost duty in his majesty's service, and showed the greatest zeal and bravery on this occasion.

'The Pretender's son, it is said,

lay at Lord Lovat's house at Aird the night after the action. Brigadier Mordaunt is detached with nine hundred volunteers this morning into the Frasers' country, to attack all the rebels he may find there. Lord Sutherland's and Lord Remy's people continue to exert themselves, and have taken upwards of one hundred rebels, who are sent for; and there is great reason to believe Lord Cromartie and his son are also taken. The Monroes have killed fifty of the rebels in their flight. As it is not known where the greatest bodies of them are, or which way they have taken in their flight, his royal highness has not yet determined which way to march. On the 17th, as his royal highness was at dinner, three officers, and about sixteen of Fitz-James's regiment, who were mounted, came and surrendered themselves prisoners.

'The killed, wounded, and missing, of the king's troops, amount to above three hundred.

'The French officers will be all sent to Carlisle, till his majesty's pleasure shall be known.

'The rebels, by their own accounts, make their loss greater by two thousand men than we have stated it. Four of their principal ladies are in custody, viz. Lady Ogilvie, Lady Kinloch, Lady Gordon, and the Laird of M'Intosh's wife. Major Grant, the governor of Inverness, is retaken, and the Generals Hawley, Lord Albemarle, Huske, and Bland, have orders to inquire into the reasons for his surrendering of Fort George.

'Lord Cromartie, Lord M'Cleod his son, with other prisoners, are just brought in from Sutherland, by the Hound sloop, which his royal highness had sent for them; and they are just now landing.'

* The officers' half-pikes.

Soon after this decisive affair, several other of the rebel chiefs were also taken into custody. The noblemen whose names are prefixed to this article possessed great influence, and were much respected, previous to these unhappy events; of which having given a correct account, we proceed without farther comment to their trials, defence, speeches, and execution.

On Monday, the 28th of July, 1746, about eight o'clock in the morning, the rebel lords, prisoners in the Tower, were carried from thence in three coaches, under a strong guard of foot-soldiers, to Westminster Hall, where the Lord High Steward and the Peers having taken their seats, proclamation was made for the Lieutenant of the Tower of London to return the precept to him directed, with the bodies of the prisoners. This done, the gentleman-gaoler of the Tower brought his prisoners to the bar; and the proclamation was made for the king's evidence to come forth. The king's counsel, by his grace's direction, opened the indictment, which being done, William, Earl of Kilmarnock, was brought to the bar, and his bill of indictment for high treason read, to which his lordship pleaded guilty, and desired to be recommended to his majesty for mercy. Then George, Earl of Cromartie, was brought to the bar, &c. who also pleaded guilty, and prayed for mercy. After which Arthur, Lord Balmerino, was brought to the bar, &c. who pleaded not guilty, alleging that he was not at Carlisle at the time specified in the indictment; whereupon six witnesses for the crown were called in and examined, whose evidence was distinctly repeated by the reading-clerk, proving that his lordship entered Carlisle (though not the same day), sword in hand, at the head of

a regiment called by his name. To this he made an exception, which was overruled. The Lord High Steward then asked him if he had any witness, or any thing to offer in his defence. To which he replied, he was sorry he had given their lordships so much trouble, and had nothing more to say. Hereupon their lordships retired out of Westminster Hall to the House of Peers, where the opinion of the judges was asked touching the overt act, which they declaring to be not material, as other facts were proved beyond contradiction, their lordships returned, and his grace putting the question to the youngest baron, 'whether Arthur, Lord Balmerino, was guilty or not guilty, &c.' he clapped his right hand to his left breast, (according to the usual form,) and said, 'Guilty, upon my honour, my lord,' as did all the rest of the peers. And the prisoners being again called to the bar, the Lord High Steward declared their resolutions; and they were ordered to be brought up on the 30th, at eleven o'clock in the morning, to receive sentence.

Written notice was given them to bring what they might have to offer in arrest of judgment. There were one hundred and thirty-six peers present.

On the 30th the Lord High Steward went to Westminster Hall, attended as before: and the prisoners being brought again before their peers, the Earl of Kilmarnock made a very elegant and pathetic speech, which was much admired, to move their lordships to intercede for him with his majesty; the Earl of Cromartie spoke also to the same effect: but Lord Balmerino pleaded, in arrest of judgment, that his indictment was found in the county of Surrey; and, this being a point of law, desired that he might be allowed counsel to argue it; upon which

the court adjourned to their chamber to consider of it, and soon after returning, ordered his plea to be argued on Friday next, and appointed Messrs. Wilbrake and Far-
 nester for his counsel.

On the 1st of August, the Lord High Steward and the peers being come to Westminster Hall, the three rebel lords were brought to the bar, with the axe carried before them. Lords Kilmarnock and Cromwell were separately asked if they had any thing to propose why judgment should not be passed upon them, to which they answered in the negative. Then his grace informed Lord Bateman that, having started an objection, desired counsel, and had their assistance, he was now to make use of it, if he thought fit to argue the point.* His lordship answered, he was sorry for the trouble he had given his grace and the peers; that he would not have taken that step if he had not been persuaded there was some ground for the objection; but that his counsel having satisfied him there was nothing in it that could tend to his service, he declined having them heard, submitted to the Court, and was resolved to rely upon his majesty's mercy.

His grace then made a speech to the prisoners, almost to the same effect as that formerly pronounced by Earl Cowper. But as the present rebellion was opposed with more unanimity and zeal than the last, his grace took occasion to observe to their lordships, that the

beginnings thereof ' were so weak and unpromising, as to be capable of seducing none but the most infected and willing minds to join in a desperate and enterprize.—That it was impossible even for the party of the rebels to be so incommensurate or vain as to imagine that the body of this free people, blind in the enjoyment of all their rights, both civil and religious, under his majesty's protection—secure in the prospect of transmitting them safe to their posterity under the Protestant succession in his royal house—would not rise up, as one man, to oppose and crush so flagitious, so destructive, and so unprovoked an attempt. Accordingly the rebels soon saw his majesty's faithful subjects, conscious both of their duty and interest, contending to outdo one another in demonstrations of their zeal and vigour in his service.—Men of property, of all ranks and orders, crowded in with liberal subscriptions, of their own motion, beyond the examples of former times, and uncompelled by any law: and yet in the most legal and warrantable manner, notwithstanding what has been ignorantly and presumptuously suggested to the contrary.'—His lordship concluded thus:—' It has been his majesty's justice to bring your lordships to legal trial; and it has been his wisdom to show that, as a small part of his national forces was sufficient to subdue the rebel army in the field, so the ordinary course of his laws is strong enough to bring even their chiefs to justice.'

* That the bill of indictment was found on an act of parliament passed in March preceding, by which prisoners charged with high treason were to be tried in such county as his majesty should appoint; but as the treason with which his lordship was charged was said to have been committed at Carlisle in the December before, he ought to have been indicted there, and not in Surrey, inasmuch as the treason alleged to be committed was before the passing of the act, and therefore he could not be affected by it; and consequently the whole superstructure built thereon must fall to the ground. This objection, it is said, was suggested to all the lords, in a letter sent to each in the Tower, by an official person; but the very title of the act includes 'such persons as have levied, or shall levy, war against his majesty.'

E H p e f i c k l e

Then, after a short pause, his grace pronounced sentence as in cases of high treason; and afterwards, breaking his staff, put an end to the commission.

Lord Kilmarnock, who was distinguished by the comeliness of his appearance, was brought up in the profession of the Presbyterian faith; so that his joining the rebels may be deemed the more extraordinary, as there is no religion farther removed from popery than that of the Presbytery of Scotland: but his lordship had married a lady who was strongly attached to Jacobinical principles, and who made repeated efforts to convert him to her political sentiments: but, if the accounts transmitted to us are true, he resisted all her arguments till within a few months of the landing of the Pretender; when, having applied to the ministry for a place under the government, and his suit being rejected, he became determined with regard to his future conduct.

Lord Cromartie derived his descent from a family which had a kind of hereditary attachment to the house of Stuart. James II. had advanced his grandfather to the dignity of an earldom, for supporting him in his unjustifiable views against the rights and privileges of his subjects.

Lord Balmerino, as well as the Earl of Cromartie, was a non-juror. He was the youngest son of the preceding Lord Balmerino, and succeeded to the title but just before the battle of Culloden. He had been concerned in the rebellion in 1715, but received a pardon through the intercession of his friends. This nobleman was distinguished by his courage, and his skill as a swordsman; nor was he less distinguished by his firm adherence to the principles he had

imbibed, as we shall see in the sequel.

Great interest being exerted to save the earls, it was hinted to Balmerino that his friends ought to exert themselves in his behalf; to which, with great magnanimity, he only replied: 'I am very indifferent about my own fate; but, had the two noble lords been my friends, they would have squeezed my name in among theirs.'

The Countess of Cromartie, who had a very large family of young children, was incessant in her applications for the pardon of her husband; to obtain which she took a very plausible method. She procured herself to be introduced to the late Princess of Wales, attended by her children in mourning; and urged her suit in the most suppliant terms. The princess had at that time several children. Such an argument could scarcely fail to move; and a pardon was granted to Lord Cromartie, on the condition that he should never reside north of the river Trent. This condition was literally complied with; and his lordship died in Soho Square in the year 1766.

On the 18th of August, 1746, at six o'clock in the morning, a troop of life-guards, one of horse-grenadiers, and one thousand of the foot-guards, marched from the parade in St. James's Park, through the city, to Tower Hill, to attend the execution of the Earl of Kilmarnock and the Lord Balmerino; and, being arrived there, were posted in lines from the Tower to the scaffold, and all round it. About eight o'clock the sheriffs of London, with their under-sheriffs and officers, viz. six sergeants at mace, six yeomen, and the executioner, met at the Mitre tavern, in Fenchurch Street, where they breakfasted; and went from thence to the house lately the

Transport-office, on Tower Hill, near Catherine Court, hired by them for the reception of the said lords before they should be conducted to the scaffold, which was erected about thirty yards from the said house. At ten o'clock the block was fixed on the stage, and covered with black cloth, and several sacks of sawdust were brought up to strew on it; soon after their coffins were brought, covered with black cloth, ornamented with gilt nails, &c. At a quarter after ten the sheriffs went in procession to the outer gate of the Tower, and, after knocking at it some time, a warder within asked, 'Who's there?' The officer without answered, 'The sheriffs of London and Middlesex.' The warder then asked, 'What do they want?' The officer answered, 'The bodies of William, Earl of Kilmarnock, and Arthur, Lord Balmerino:' upon which the warder said, 'I will go and inform the Lieutenant of the Tower;' and, in about ten minutes, the Lieutenant of the Tower, with the Earl of Kilmarnock,* and Major White, with Lord Balmerino, guarded by several of the warders, came to the gate: the prisoners were there delivered to the sheriffs, who gave proper receipts for their bodies to the Lieutenant, who, as is usual, said 'God bless King George;' to which the Earl of Kilmarnock assented by a bow; and the Lord Balmerino said 'God bless King James.' Soon after, the procession, moving in a slow and solemn manner, appeared in the following order:—1. The Constable of the Tower Hamlets. 2. The Knight Marshal's Men and Tipstaves. 3. The Sheriffs' Officers. 4. The Sheriffs, the Prisoners, and their Chaplains. 5. The Tower

Warders. 6. A guard of Musketeers. 7. The two hearses and a mourning-coach. When the procession had passed through the lines into the area of the circle formed by the guards, the passage was closed, and the troops of horse, who were in the rear of the foot on the lines, wheeled off, and drew up five deep behind the foot, on the south side of the hill, facing the scaffold.

The lords were conducted into separate apartments in the house, facing the steps of the scaffold, their friends being admitted to see them. The Earl of Kilmarnock was attended by the Rev. Mr. Foster, a dissenting minister, and the Rev. Mr. Hume, a near relation of the Earl of Hume; and the Chaplain of the Tower, and another clergyman of the Church of England, accompanied the Lord Balmerino; who, on entering the door of the house, hearing several of the spectators ask eagerly, 'Which is Lord Balmerino?' answered, smiling, 'I am Lord Balmerino, gentlemen, at your service.' The parlour and passage of the house, the rails enclosing the way from thence to the scaffold, and the rails about it, were all hung with black at the sheriffs' expense.

The Lord Kilmarnock, in the apartment allotted to him, spent about an hour in his devotions with Mr. Foster, who assisted him with prayer and exhortation. After which, Lord Balmerino, pursuant to his request, being admitted to confer with the earl, first thanked him for the favour, and then asked 'If his lordship knew of any order signed by the prince (meaning the young Pretender), to give no quarter at the battle of Culloden?' And the earl answering, 'No,' the Lord

* At the foot of the first stairs, he met and embraced Lord Balmerino, who (as Mr. Foster observes) said to him, 'My Lord, I am heartily sorry to have your company in this expedition.'

Balmerino added, 'Nor I neither, and therefore it seems to be an invention to justify their own murders.' The earl replied, 'he did not think this a fair inference, because he had been informed, after he was prisoner at Inverness, by several officers, that such an order, signed George Murray, was in the duke's custody.'—'George Murray!' said Lord Balmerino, 'then they should not charge it on the prince.' He then took his leave, saluting Lord Kilmarnock with the same kind of noble and generous compliments as he had used before; 'My dear Lord Kilmarnock, I am only sorry that I cannot pay this reckoning alone; once more, farewell for ever!'

The earl then, with the company kneeling down, joined in a prayer delivered by Mr. Foster: after which, having sat a few moments, and taken a second refreshment of a bit of bread and a glass of wine, he expressed a desire that Lord Balmerino might go first to the scaffold; but being informed that this could not be, as his lordship was named first in the warrant, he appeared satisfied, saluted his friends, saying he should make no speech on the scaffold, but desired the ministers to assist him in his last moments; and they accordingly, with other friends, proceeded with him to the scaffold. The multitude, who had been long awaiting him, on his first appearing on the scaffold, dressed in black, with a countenance and demeanour* testifying great contrition, showed the deepest signs of commiseration and pity; and his lordship, at the same time, being struck with such a variety of dreadful objects at once, the multitudes, the block, his coffin, the executioner, the instrument of death, &c.

turned about to Mr. Hume, and said, 'Hume, this is terrible!' though without changing either voice or countenance.

After putting up a short prayer, concluding with a petition for his Majesty King George and the royal family, his lordship embraced, and took his last leave of, his friends. The executioner, who before had something administered to him to keep him from fainting, was so affected with his lordship's distress and the awfulness of the scene, that, on asking him forgiveness, he burst into tears. My lord bid him take courage, giving him at the same time a purse with five guineas, and telling him that he would drop his handkerchief as a signal for the stroke. He proceeded, with the help of his gentleman, to make ready for the block, by taking off his coat, and the bag from his hair, which was then tucked up under a napkin-cap; his neck being laid bare, tucking down the collar of his shirt and waistcoat, he kneeled down on a black cushion at the block, and drew his cap over his eyes, in doing which, as well as in putting up his hair, his hands were observed to shake; but, either to support himself, or for a more convenient posture of devotion, he happened to lay both his hands upon the block, which the executioner observing, prayed his lordship to let them fall, lest they should be mangled, or break the blow. He was then told that the neck of his waistcoat was in the way, upon which he rose, and with the help of a friend took it off; and the neck being made bare to the shoulders, he kneeled down as before. In the mean time, when all things were ready for the execution, and the black baize which hung over the

* His person was tall and graceful, his countenance mild, and his complexion pale; and the more so, as he had been indisposed.

read it with an audible voice : so far from being filled with passionate invectives, it mentioned his majesty as a prince of the greatest magnanimity and mercy, at the same time that, through erroneous political principles, it denied him a right to the allegiance of his people. Having delivered this paper to the sheriff, he called for the executioner, who appearing, and being about to ask his lordship's pardon, he said, ' Friend, you need not ask me forgiveness, the execution of your duty is commendable : ' upon which his lordship gave him three guineas, saying, ' I never was rich ; this is all the money I have now ; I wish it was more, and I am sorry I can add nothing to it but my coat and waistcoat ; ' which he then took off, together with his neckcloth, and threw them on his coffin, putting on a flannel waistcoat which had been provided for the purpose ; and then taking a plaid cap out of his pocket, he put it on his head, saying he died a Scotchman. After kneeling down at the block, to adjust his posture and show the executioner the signal for the stroke, which was dropping his arms, he once more gave a farewell look to his friends, and, turning round on the crowd, said, ' Perhaps some may think my behaviour too bold ; but remember, sir, (to a gentleman who stood near him,) that I now declare it is the effect of confidence in God, and a good conscience ; and I should dissemble if I showed any signs of fear. '

Having observed the axe in the executioner's hand as he passed him, he took it from him, felt the edge, and, returning it, clapped the executioner on the shoulder, to encourage him ; he even tucked down the collar of his shirt and waistcoat, and showed him where to strike, desiring him to do it resolutely,

' for in that, ' says his lordship, ' will consist your kindness. '

He went to the side of the stage, and called up the warder, of whom he inquired which was his hearse, and ordered the man to drive near, which was instantly done.

Immediately, without trembling or changing countenance, he again kneeled down at the block, and having, with his arms stretched out, said, ' O Lord, reward my friends, forgive my enemies, and receive my soul, ' he gave the signal by letting them fall. But his uncommon firmness and intrepidity, with the unexpected suddenness of the signal, so surprised the executioner, that, though he struck the part directed, the blow was not given with strength enough to wound him very deeply ; on which it seemed as if he made an effort to turn his head towards the executioner, and the under jaw fell, and returned very quick, like anger and gnashing the teeth ; but this arose from the parts being convulsed. A second blow immediately succeeding the first rendered him, however, quite insensible, and a third finished the work.

His head was received in a piece of red baize, and, with his body, put into the coffin, which, at his particular request, was placed on that of the late Marquis of Tullibardine, (who died during his imprisonment,) in St. Peter's church in the Tower, all three lords lying in one grave.

During the whole course of the solemnity, although the hill, the scaffoldings, and houses, were crowded full of spectators, all persons evinced uncommon decency and evenness of temper ; which shows how much the people acquiesced in the rectitude of the execution, though too humane to rejoice in the catastrophe.

Lord Balmerino had but a small estate, though ground-landlord and

lord of the manor of Colcon, a long street in the suburbs of Edinburgh, leading to Leith: he had also some other small possessions in the shire of Fife. His lady came to London soon after him, and frequently attended him during his confinement in the Tower, having lodgings in East Smithfield. She was at dinner with him when the warrant came for his execution the Monday following; and, being very much surprised, he desired her not to be concerned at it: 'If the king had given me mercy,' said he, 'I should have been glad of it; but, since it is otherwise, I am very easy; for it is what I have expected, and therefore it does not at all surprise me.' His lady seemed very disconsolate, and rose immediately from table; on which he started from his chair, and said, 'Pray, my lady, sit down, for it shall not spoil my dinner;' upon which her ladyship sat down again, but could not eat.

Several more of his sayings were related as remarkable. Among others, that, being advised to take care of his person, he replied, 'It would be thought very imprudent in a man to repair an old house, when the lease of it was so near expiring.'

We insert the following character of Lord Balmerino, ably drawn up soon after his execution:

'The abhorrence of pain is a principle implanted in all animals, as the means of their preservation. To this in men is added the fear of death; and that is still heightened by apprehensions of what may happen afterwards. Yet pain is often unavoidable; and death, with its consequences, some time or other, absolutely necessary. Hence arises the merit of courage; which consists in facing intrepidly, and suffering cheerfully, these evils, when become either inevitable or declin-

able only on unworthy terms. Great, then, are undoubtedly the obligations of mankind to those who, on such occasions, treat these terrors with the contempt they really deserve, and give us an useful lesson and example how to behave in an emergency which we ought every day to expect, and which we must one day certainly experience. The Greeks and Romans, therefore, looked even on suicide in an amiable light. It was with them the consummation of a perfect character, and the extenuation of the most faulty. Nor were they in this altogether impolitic; hence flowed that appetite for danger, that prodigality of life, which they knew how so skilfully to direct to the public emolument. But heaven-instructed Christians have unlearned this Pagan doctrine; and yet, amongst the primitive, what was accounted more meritorious than a courageous calm submission to civil punishment? It appears the constant aim of the martyrs, and had the happiest effects as to the promulgation of their precepts.

'There has been lately seen among us a noble instance of the superiority of a great mind to fear, which, when passion and prejudice have subsided, will reflect honour on our times; and even be advantageous to former, as it bestows credibility on their most exaggerated heroical relations. I mean the death of the late Lord Balmerino.

'But, before I proceed, it may be proper to declare, that, if I would vindicate and extol his death, I by no means intend to justify or excuse his life. I give up, with all good Englishmen, the French soldier, the Jacobite, the double rebel; I concur with them in the rectitude of his sentence, and the necessity of its execution. It is at the Tower gate that I (with the

sheriffs) take him up:—There the hero commences!

'I will not injure by comparing (as has been hitherto done) with pusillanimity itself a fortitude that wants no foil—which all antiquity can scarcely parallel.

'Lord Balmerino's carriage in the procession from the Tower was easy and cheerful; his conversation in the preparatory room rational and pertinent; his interview with his fellow-sufferer open and generous. When on the scaffold, he had so little of the formal piteous countenance there usually exhibited, that those who were unacquainted with his person knew not for some time that he was there. He told the officers that he would take up little of their time; that he was sensible the greatest part of it was already elapsed; that he had had frequent opportunities to look into his future concerns, and should not settle those accounts in public. Accordingly, having, with much composure, given the necessary directions, he prepared for the blow with the greatest alacrity, and an expedition which was only interrupted by an act of generosity, and a mistake which, to a weak mind, might have been productive of extreme disorder, but served only to elevate his character. And though, through the whole of this transaction, nothing appeared but intrepidity and constancy, yet this hero confessed the man. He had his fears, but they were glorious ones: he feared, he said, his con-

duct would be thought too bold: willingly would he have seemed less so, but could not play the hypocrite. So far was he from an affected ostentation of his prodigious courage! a courage which was attended by the most desirable effect, the most indisputable evidence. This nobleman parted with life with such unconcern as convinced the spectators that it was, not only to him, but really in itself, of no importance. The black solemnity could not obscure his serenity, nor imprint on them a gloom not to be dispelled by such lustre. They found there was nothing unnatural in dying; nothing horrible in death itself; they felt no emotion.

'Thus, greatly lamented, fell Arthur, Lord Balmerino, a man of the most incredible courage, the most commendable sincerity, and the most engaging simplicity; who was an honour to the worst cause, and would have been an ornament to the best; whose faults will one day be forgotten, and his virtues remembered.

'And sure the little here said (with strict truth) in his favour, cannot possibly give offence to the most zealous loyalist. There is a justice due to the characters of gallant enemies. Our law never intends to execute reputation; and its most rigid sentence, pronounced on the least pardonable occasion, confines the punishment to the body merely, and in the midst of judgment remembers mercy.'

CHARLES RATCLIFFE, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THIS gentleman, one of those who took part in the rebellion under a commission from the King of France, was taken, with many others, on his passage to Scotland, by the Seahorse frigate. He was the youngest brother of the Earl of

Derwentwater, who was attainted and executed in the former rebellion; and whose titles and estates were consequently forfeited to the crown. He was, with his brother, taken at Preston, tried, convicted, and condemned; but several times

rescued, and would probably have been pardoned, on account of his youth, had he not, with thirteen others, made his escape out of a room called the Castle, in Newgate, through a small door which had been accidentally left open, leading to the debtor's side, where the turnkey, not knowing them, let them out of the prison, supposing they were persons who had come in to see their friends.

He immediately procured a passage to France, and from thence followed the Pretender to Rome, subsisting on such petty pension as his master could allow him. Returning some short time afterwards to Paris, he married the widow of Lord Newburgh, by whom he had a son.

In 1733 Mr. Ratcliffe came to England, and resided in Pall Mall without any molestation, though it was well known to the ministry.* He went back to France, but returned in 1735 to solicit his pardon, but without success, though he appeared publicly, and visited several families. Returning again to France, he unfortunately accepted of the French king's commission to act as an officer in the rebellion, and was captured as we have already described.

On the 22d of October, 1746, this gentleman was brought to the bar of the Court of King's Bench, and arraigned; but he refused to hold up his hand, or acknowledge any jurisdiction save that of the King of France, insisting on a commission he had in his pocket from him, and appealing to the Sicilian ambassador, who was then in Court, for the authenticity thereof. On

hearing his former indictment and conviction read, he said that he was not the Charles Ratcliffe therein named, but that he was the Earl of Derwentwater; and his counsel informed the Court that such was the plea they meant to abide by, and thereupon issue was joined.

Then the counsel for the prisoner moved to put off his trial, upon his own affidavit (to which he had subscribed himself the Count de Derwentwater) that two of his material witnesses, naming them, were abroad, without whose testimony he could not safely go to trial. To this affidavit the counsel for the crown objected, as not being entitled as in the case before the Court, nor the two witnesses sworn to be material in the issue then joined between the king and the prisoner; and also because the prisoner had not so much as undertaken to swear for himself that he was not the person, which, as it was a fact entirely in his own knowledge, ought to be required of him if he would entitle himself to this favour from the Court; the present being a proceeding very different from a trial upon a 'not guilty' in an original prosecution on a charge of high treason or other crime, the identity of the person being the single point to be inquired into, and a case in which the crown had a right by law to proceed *instantly*. Upon this the prisoner amended his affidavit as to the witnesses, but refused to supply it so far as to swear he was not the same person: and the Court said this was a new precedent, there being no instance of any application to put off the trial of a question of this sort before; and therefore that

* Some years after the quelling of the last rebellion, the Pretender came in disguise to view London. This was a natural but dangerous curiosity, to behold the place where his grandfather, King James II. had been on the throne. Ministers, being apprized of this circumstance, went in haste to King George II. with the information, and recommended his immediate apprehension. The monarch, with one of those shrewd answers which he was remarkable, replied, 'No—let the poor man satisfy his curiosity; which he will quietly go back to France.' The king's observation was verified.

the prisoner ought to give all reasonable satisfaction to induce them to grant such a favour as was desired; for they could not in conscience and justice to the public indulge him, without a reasonable satisfaction that his plea was true. But the prisoner still refusing to swear to the truth of his plea, the jury were called, and, after two or three of the panel had been sworn, Mr. Ratcliffe challenged the next that was called, as of right, without assigning any reason; but upon debate of the question, how far he had right to challenge? the Court said it had been determined before, in all the later cases, and particularly in the case of one Jordan, that the prisoner in such a case as this had no peremptory challenge; upon which the rest of the jury were sworn; and, after a clear evidence of the identity of the person on the part of the crown, the prisoner producing none on his part, the jury withdrew about ten minutes, and then found their verdict that he was the same Charles Ratcliffe who was convicted of high treason in the year 1716.

His design in styling himself Earl of Derwentwater was that he might pass for Francis, his younger brother, who went to France before 1715, but was thought to be dead. He would not call the Lord Chief Justice lord, because the title of earl was not given him. He refused to hold up his hand at the bar; and being told that as a gentleman he ought to comply, and that his own counsel would satisfy him it was only a form of the Court, he said, 'I know many things that I will not advise with my counsel upon.' On hearing the rule for his execution he desired time, because he and Lord Moreton (in the Bastille at Paris) should take the same journey at the same time.

About eight o'clock on the 8th

of December, 1746, two troops of life-guards, and one troop of horse-guards, marched through the city for Little Tower Hill, where they were joined by a battalion of foot-guards, to attend the execution of Charles Ratcliffe, Esq. About ten o'clock the block with a cushion, both covered with black, were fixed upon the stage, and soon after Mr. Ratcliffe's coffin, which was covered with black velvet. At eleven the sheriffs, with their officers, went to the Tower, and demanded the body of Mr. Ratcliffe of General Williamson, deputy-governor; upon being surrendered, he was conducted to a small booth joining to the stairs of the scaffold, lined with black, where he spent about half an hour in devotion, and then, preceded by the sheriffs, the divine, and some gentlemen his friends, came upon the scaffold, bade them farewell with great serenity and calmness of mind, and, having spoken a few words to the executioner, (whom he gave a purse of ten guineas,) put on a damask cap, and knelt down to prayers, which lasted about seven minutes, all the spectators on the scaffold kneeling with him. Prayers being over, he pulled off his clothes, and put his head to the block, from whence he soon got up, and, having spoken a few words, he knelt down to it, and, fixing his head, in about two minutes gave the signal to the executioner, who at three blows struck it off, and it was received in a scarlet cloth held for that purpose. He was dressed in scarlet, faced with black velvet, trimmed with gold, a gold-laced waistcoat, and a white feather in his hat. He behaved with the greatest fortitude and coolness of temper, was no way shocked at the approach of death, and died a zealous papist.

His corpse was, on the 11th, carried in a hearse, attended by two

mourning-coaches, to St. Giles's in the Fields, and there interred with the remains of the late Earl of Derwentwater, according to his desire.

It seems the Derwentwater estate had been only confiscated to the crown for the life of Charles Ratcliffe, Esq.; but by a clause in an act of parliament passed some years after, which says, that the issue of any person attainted of high treason, born and bred in any foreign dominion, and a Roman Catholic, shall forfeit his reversion of such

estate, and the remainder shall forever be fixed in the crown, his son was absolutely deprived of any title or interest in the affluent fortune of that ancient family, to the amount of better than two hundred thousand pounds.

This unhappy gentleman was the younger brother of James, Earl of Derwentwater, who was executed in 1716: they were sons of Sir Francis Ratcliffe, by the Lady Mary Tudor, natural daughter to King Charles II. by Mrs. Mary Davis.



Lord Lovat beheaded on Tower Hill.

LORD LOVAT,

BEHEADED FOR HIGH TREASON.

This hoary rebel had spent a long life without one single noble trait in his character.

In the year 1692 he was appointed a captain in Lord Tullibardine's regiment, but resigned in order to execute his claim to be the head of the Frasers; in order to

effect which, he laid a scheme to get the heiress of Lovat, who was about to be married to a son of Lord Salton. He raised a clan, who violently seized the young lord, and, erecting a gibbet, showed it to him and his father, threatening their instant death unless they re-

linquished the contract made for the heiress of Lovat. To this, fearing for their lives, they consented; but still unable to get possession of the young lady, he seized the dowager Lady Lovat in her own house, caused a priest to marry them against her consent, cut her stays open with his dirk, and, assisted by his ruffians, tore off her clothes, forced her into bed, to which he followed her, and then called them to witness the consummation of the outrageous marriage. For this breach of the peace he was indicted, but fled from justice; he was, nevertheless, tried for a rape, and for treason, in opposing the laws with an armed force; and sentence of outlawry was pronounced against him.

Having fled to France, he turned papist, ingratiated himself with the Pretender, and was rewarded by him with a commission. Before he could effect his premeditated mischief, under sanction of this assumed power, he was apprehended on the remonstrance of the English ambassador in Paris, and lodged in the Bastille, where having remained some years, he effected his liberty by taking priest's orders, under colour of which he became a Jesuit in the college of St. Omer's.

In the first rebellion of 1715 he returned to Scotland, and, joining the king's troops, assisted them in seizing Inverness from the rebels; for which service he got the title of Lovat, was appointed to command, and had other favours conferred upon him.

In the rebellion of which we are now treating he turned sides, and joined the Pretender; a step treacherous in the extreme. When taken, he was old, unwieldy, and almost helpless, yet had been possessed of infinite resources to assist the rebellion. He petitioned the

Duke of Cumberland for mercy; and, hoping to work upon his feelings, recapitulated his former services, the favours that he had received from the duke's grandfather, King George I., and dwelt much upon his access to court, saying he had carried him to whom he now sued for life in his arms, and, when a baby, held him up, while his grandsire fondled upon him. On the publication of this petition, a wit of the day wrote the following lines:—

'You nurs'd me, and buss'd me, and
hugg'd me, 'tis true,
When I was but a babe in a coat;
But now I'm grown big, and as bulky as
you,
You would, if you could, cut my throat.
Yet, waving all this, if indeed you'll repent,
Tho' you've proved such a wicked old
tartar,
Let the Pope, your good father, but make
you a saint,
I will promise to make you a martyr.'

When brought up to the House of Lords, the articles of impeachment having been read to him, he made a long speech at the bar, signifying the great esteem he had for his majesty and the royal family; and enumerating divers instances of the great service he did the government, in extinguishing the rebellion of 1715. He likewise took notice of his infirmities, particularly his deafness; and declared that he had not heard one word of the articles read against him. His lordship was allowed time to prepare his defence, and four counsellors and three solicitors were assigned him.

On Monday, March 9, 1747, about ten o'clock, the Lord Lovat was brought from the Tower, under a strong guard, to Westminster Hall. Soon after, the Lord High Steward, the Judges, and Masters in Chancery, went to the House of Peers. After which they adjourned to Westminster Hall; and being there seated in their robes, the articles of

impeachment which had been exhibited against Lord Lovat, with his lordship's answer, and the replication of the Commons, were read.

The Lord High Steward then acquainted him with the nature of his crime, to which he pleaded not guilty.

Sir William Yonge, in a speech which lasted near three quarters of an hour, supported the said articles, and displayed the great turpitude of the crimes of rebellion and high treason, particularly as aggravated by the circumstances charged against the nobleman at the bar, which, he said, the Commons were ready to prove by indubitable evidence. He was seconded by the Lord Coke, who animadverted very severely upon Lord Lovat's conduct with respect to his son. Sir Dudley Rider, in a speech which lasted an hour and a half, opened the charge, and related the several overt acts in order, which the witnesses for the prosecution were to support; and read several letters, among which was that to the Lord President.

Sir John Strange, after a very short speech, called one Shield, a witness.

Here the Lord Lovat requested of the Court that as persons in his circumstances were allowed pen, ink, and paper, and to take minutes of what was said, and as he was not able to take the benefit of this privilege himself, without which it would be impossible for him to make his defence, some other person might be permitted to do it for him; he also desired that his counsel might speak for him.

As to taking minutes, the Lord High Steward replied that the Court could not formally grant such a request; but that he observed a person standing near his lordship, who had been employed in taking notes

ever since the proceedings had been begun, and that through the lenity of the Court he had not been interrupted; and that his counsel could not be allowed to speak, except a point of law should arise.

Lord Lovat still persisting in his request for counsel, Sir William Yonge said the managers of the House of Commons could not consent to it without going to their own house for further instructions.

Shield, the witness, being brought to the bar, Lord Lovat excepted against him, as being his tenant; and alleged that, by the laws of Scotland, tenants could not be examined against their lord. The Lord High Steward replied that he knew of no such law in England. Lord Lovat then named a statute which incapacitated such persons to give evidence in cases of treason as would be benefitted by the attainder; and several clauses of the act were read for the prisoner's satisfaction. After which the witness, on being asked, denied that he held any thing of the prisoner by tack or lease; and being asked, at Lord Talbot's desire, if he would receive any benefit from the attainder of the unfortunate lord at the bar, he replied in the negative.

This witness deposed that he had known Lord Lovat ever since the year 1733, had frequently conversed with him on public affairs, and was told by him that he had sent a letter to Lord Seaforth, in 1719, by Lieutenant M'Innon, inviting him to make a new attempt, and promising to join him with all his men.

That the witness made affidavit of this, and sent it to the ministry by the Duke of Athol; but that Lord Lovat had the address to get clear of the discovery.

That in 1736, when he, the Lord Lovat, was sheriff of Inverness, he

suffered Roy Stuart to escape out of the public gaol, from whence he went directly to the said lord's house, where he was entertained six weeks, and set out for France in his lordship's chaise, being charged with messages from him to the Pretender, professing his fidelity, and soliciting the post of Lieutenant-General of the Highlands, and the title of duke.

That in 1742 he received the said commission, on which he declared that he was then in a condition to humble his neighbours. That he, with six others, signed and sealed an association, and sent it to Paris and Rome, by Murray of Broughton, in 1740, the purport of which was to inform the Pretender of his readiness to appear in arms for his service, and soliciting an invasion from France. That these persons, at their meetings, drank healths and sung catches, such as 'Confusion to the White Horse, and all its generation;' and

'When Jemmy comes o'er
We shall have blood and blows good store ;'
which last were originally composed in Irish. That in 1745 he ordered his son to read the Pretender's manifesto, to which this witness objecting, he called him a traitor, &c. That he offered this witness a captain's commission, which he refused. That, in a conversation about religion, he said there was but one true religion, the Popish; that he cursed the Reformation, because it brought in a false religion; and the Revolution, because it brought us in debt. That many of his tenants refusing to come into the rebellion, he threatened to cut them off. That he sent for his son, the Master of Lovat, then nineteen, from the University of St. Andrew's, in order to his accepting a commission from the Pretender, and heading the clan. The witness having

gone through his examination, and Lord Lovat being asked if he had any questions to put to him, his lordship replied, 'he had alleged so many falsehoods, that he did not know what to ask him, or where to begin;' but observed, he had been employed in soliciting witnesses against him, which Shield denied, and Lord Lovat said he could prove. Being cross-examined how long he had been in town, and at whose expense he was now maintained, he answered, that he came to town on Tuesday then last, and was maintained at the government's expense, though he had intended to live at his own.

Another witness, of the name of Fraser, stated that he was servant to Lord Lovat, and taken prisoner with him. That after the Pretender's landing in July (of whom Lord Lovat said that he did not land like a prince,) the prisoner sent a letter to the clan of the Frasers to join his son, the Master of Lovat, who was then at home, and that a muster-roll of the men was taken by Lord Lovat himself. That the prisoner received a letter from the Lord President to dissuade him from going into the rebellion; and that in answer he excused himself, laying the blame on his son, alleging that he was not the first who had an undutiful child. That the Master of Lovat, accidentally getting a sight of this letter, cried out, 'Good God! how have I deserved that character?—By God, I'll go and put the saddle on the right horse.' That Lord Lovat was not by; and that the young gentleman's parental affection soon getting the better of his resentment, the affair dropped.—That Lord Lovat's name was made use of to induce the Frasers to join the Pretender; and that he appointed them a rendezvous, and furnished them with tents,

arms, colours, &c.—That they rendezvoused twice; once about the middle, and once about the latter end, of August, 1745, near Lord Lovat's house; and that at the last meeting his lordship gave them gunpowder and cockades, as marks of their being in the Pretender's service.—That after the battle of Preston-Pans flags were given to his men.—That Lord Lovat, in a letter to the Pretender's son, then at the head of his party, laments his great age and infirmities, which prevented his doing him personal service; and acquaints him that, as a proof of his zeal in the cause, he had sent his eldest son, who was the darling of his life.—That Lord Lovat had several meetings with the rebel chiefs, who were actually in arms, particularly Murray of Barrisdale; and that they sometimes spoke Erse, and sometimes French.—That the Lord Lovat distributed money for raising men. That this witness received a commission October 18, 1744, from the hands of Mr. Drummond's lady, then in France, with orders to give it to Lord Lovat only; that he read it, and took a copy of it, but had it not to produce. That the prisoner complained that the government had not used him well in taking away the command of an independent company, and expressed great resentment on that account. This witness having gone through his evidence, and Lord Lovat being asked if he would put any questions to him, declined it by saying he was not able to ask him any questions, but that what he said would not find credit in an assembly of footmen.

This was the substance of the first day's proceedings; and a great part of the second was spent in debates respecting the admissibility of Mr. Murray, who had been secretary to

the Pretender, as an evidence. It was urged that his evidence could not be allowed, as he stood attainted; but the attorney-general having read the record of the attainder, and produced the king's pardon, all farther objections fell to the ground.

On the following day Mr. Murray was examined, and proved that Lord Lovat had assisted the rebels with men and money; and that he had commissioned two of his sons to cause his tenants to take arms in behalf of the Pretender.

On the fourth day of trial, Hugh Fraser, Lord Lovat's secretary, confirmed the former evidence in several particulars; and deposed further, that, when news came of the battle of Preston-Pans, his lordship said 'it was such a victory as could not be paralleled in history.' That he was sent by Lord Lovat to the Pretender's son, then at Holyrood House, to assure him of his zeal for his interest, and acquaint him that he had sent his son at the head of his clan in order to join him, with which the young Pretender declared himself satisfied; and Secretary Murray, by his orders, gave the witness a letter for Lord Lovat, unsealed, purporting, among other things, that they were preparing to march into England, and desiring the Frasers might join them about Moffet or Carlisle; which letter this witness delivered accordingly, acquainting Lord Lovat, at the same time, that there were twenty-one battalions of English troops landed from Flanders, and two regiments from Ireland; and that the Dutch auxiliaries were expected,—all of which would be too strong for them. His lord replied that he had gone too far to go back, and forbade the witness to mention these particulars to his son. That about six or seven companies of the Frasers

having marched to join the rebels, all came back except twenty-five, being countermanded by Lord Lovat, who had written to the Lord President to know what would be the consequence of his headstrong son's having entered into the rebellion, and received for answer that his person would be seized, and his conduct inquired into. Of this his lordship immediately informed his son, and proposed his going directly to Holland; but that the next day, when in company with several gentlemen, he declared it was all a bugbear, and advised his son to proceed, and join the rebels with his whole clan. That upon this the Master of Lovat burst into tears, saying he had been made a fool and a tool from first to last, his father undoing one day what he did the former; but that he was now determined to march, let the consequence be what it would. That he believes, from his knowledge of the Master of Lovat's good sense and avowed principles, that he would not have gone into the rebellion but for his father's influence; and that he had often heard him declare as much. That the Frasers marched to Stirling, and that some of the arms brought from France were by order delivered to them. That the witness carried a large packet, without direction, from Secretary Murray to the Master of Lovat, containing a commission of lieutenant-general for Lord Lovat; another of lord-lieutenancy; and another of colonel to one of the name of Fraser; all signed and sealed by the Pretender. That the reason why Murray did not direct the said packet was, that he did not know whether to address it to Lord Lovat or Duke Fraser; and that he saw a letter from the young Pretender to his lordship, desiring him to join them in person.

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John Farquhar, servant to Secretary Murray, deposed that the Lord Lovat met several gentlemen after the battle of Culloden, to consider how the remainder of the rebels could be got together. That Lord Lovat embraced several of Lochiel's officers, and declared that, if they could collect a body of seven or eight thousand honest Highlanders, they should yet be able to beat the Elector of Hanover's troops; and that he wished to God he had joined the prince regent when he first came over. That some French money had been landed and distributed to the rebels, to get them together again; that they then resolved to march south for Edinburgh, and expected French forces to land.

Sir Everard Fawkener deposed that he visited the Lord Lovat, when a prisoner at Inverness, by order of the Duke of Cumberland: that his lordship then talked much of the services he had done the government in 1715, and the favours he had received from his late majesty; that he spoke with great resentment against Marshal Wade, as the person who deprived him of his free company; and declared that, in his opinion, such usage was sufficient to justify him in joining Thomas Kouli Khan, if he had landed here; but added that, if the government would spare his life and estate, he would exert all his powers (perhaps not inconsiderable) in its service.

Robert Fraser (a former witness) proved several treasonable letters to be signed by Lord Lovat, which were sent to the young Pretender, Secretary Murray, the Laird of Lochiel, and the Marquis of Tullibardine (styled Duke of Athol), which letters were read.

Several other witnesses were called, who all deposed to a similar effect.

The evidence for the crown being closed on the fifth day, it was summed up by Sir John Strange; and the Lord High Steward then informed the prisoner that he must prepare for his defence: accordingly, on the sixth day the prisoner proceeded therein. He said he had often told their lordships that he was eighty years old, full of infirmities and pains, and therefore unable to examine witnesses himself; but that he had put his thoughts loosely into writing that morning, desiring the same might be read by the clerk, which was done accordingly, being in substance as follows:—‘That it would be impossible for him to manifest his innocence to their lordships, unless he could have those witnesses from Scotland, which, by their lordships’ order, had been summoned to attend. That the allowing infamous and attainted persons, such as Secretary Murray, and his own secretary, (against whom he exclaimed in the bitterest terms,) was a dangerous precedent. That he hoped their lordships would enforce their order to bring up his witnesses; and, till then, he submitted his life, and all that was dear to him, to their lordships’ honour.’ He was then again directed to proceed to his defence; which he declining to enter upon till all his witnesses were come from Scotland, the managers declared that the subject of his request was unprecedented, and could not be complied with.—And upon this the Solicitor-general was heard in reply.

Lord Lovat then offered to call two persons to prove that many of his witnesses were threatened with imprisonment if they offered to go to London on his behalf, and others were driven to the hills: and the *Attorney-general* and Mr. Noel’s *objection to this being heard, the prisoner was taken from the bar,*

and the Lord High Steward put the question to every peer, beginning with the junior, ‘Whether Simon, Lord Lovat, was guilty of all the charges of high treason brought against him?’ and thereupon every one, putting his hand upon his left breast, answered, ‘Guilty, upon my honour.’ He was then again set to the bar, and acquainted by the Lord High Steward that his peers had unanimously found him guilty; on which the lords adjourned to their own House.

On the following day the prisoner, being brought to the bar, was asked if he had any thing to offer why judgment of death should not be pronounced against him; to which he answered he had not, and judgment was passed accordingly.

After sentence was pronounced, the Lord High Steward, standing up, broke his staff, and declared his commission void. Then Lord Lovat desired the lords to recommend him to his majesty’s mercy; and said to the managers of the Commons, ‘I hope as ye are stout ye will be merciful;’ and, going from the bar, added, ‘Fare you well, my lords; we shall not all meet again in one place.’

That the private and public character already given of Lord Lovat is in general true will appear from a memorable speech of the Lord Belhaven, (in the last Parliament held at Edinburgh, in November, 1706.) against the then projected union of the two kingdoms: his lordship, speaking of this nobleman, then Captain Fraser, on occasion of the Scots plot, commonly called Fraser’s plot, says ‘That he deserved, if practicable, to have been hanged five several times, in five different places, and upon five different accounts at least; as having been notoriously a traitor to the court of St. James’s, a traitor to the court

of St. Germain's, a traitor to the court of Versailles; and a traitor to his own country of Scotland, in being not only an avowed and restless enemy to the peace and quiet of its established government and constitution, both in church and state, but likewise a vile Proteus-like apostate, and a seducer of others in point of religion, as the tide or wind changed: and, moreover, that (abstracted from all those his multiplied acts of treason, abroad and at home) he deserved to be hanged as a condemned criminal, outlaw, and fugitive, for the barbarous, cruel, and most flagitious rape he had, with the assistance of some of his vile and abominable band of ruffians, violently committed on the body of a right honourable and virtuous lady, the widow of the late Lord Lovat, and sister of his Grace the late Duke of Athol. Nay, so hardened was Captain Fraser become in wickedness, that he audaciously erected a gallows, and threatened to hang thereon one of the said lady's brothers, and some other gentlemen of quality who accompanied him, in going to rescue him out of that criminal's cruel hand.'

His lordship married three wives; the first was the dowager Lady Lovat; the second a daughter of the Laird of Grant, sister to Sir Lodovic Grant, bart. by whom he had issue two sons and two daughters; the third a near relation to the noble family of Argyle, by whom he had also a son, named Archibald; but he used this lady so ill, that, her friends interposing, a separation took place. In 1740 he married his eldest daughter to the Laird of Cluny, chief of the clan of the M'Phersons, probably with a view to strengthen his interest, and enable him the more

effectually to put his long-meditated design in execution; since he might certainly have found a son-in-law very superior in every respect, except in numbers of men fit for service.

Waking about two in the morning on the day before his death, he prayed devoutly for some time, and then slept till near seven, when he was dressed by the assistance of the warder. This day he spent with his friends, conversing cheerfully both on public and private affairs. He was even jocose in a high degree, and told the barber who shaved him to be cautious not to cut his throat, which might baulk many persons of the expected sight on the following day. Having eaten a hearty supper, he desired that some veal might be roasted, that he might have some of it minced for his breakfast, being a dish of which he was extremely fond. He then smoked his pipe, and retired to rest.

The day fixed for his execution; Lord Lovat waked about three in the morning, and was heard to pray with great devotion; at five he arose, called for a glass of wine and water as usual, appeared cheerful, sat and read till seven, and then drank another glass of wine and water; at eight he desired his wig might be sent, that the barber might have time to comb it out genteelly; and provided himself with a purse to hold the money which he intended for the executioner.

At about half an hour after nine his lordship ate very heartily of minced veal, ordering coffee and chocolate for his friends, whose healths he drank in wine and water.

About eleven the sheriffs sent to demand his body, upon which he desired the gentlemen would retire for a few moments while he said a

' Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori;'^{*}
and afterwards from Ovid,

' Nam genus et proavos, et quæ non fecimus ipsi,
Vix ea nostra voco'——

He then desired all the people to stand off, except his two warders, who supported his lordship while he said a prayer; after which he called his solicitor and agent in Scotland, Mr. W. Fraser, and, presenting his gold-headed cane, said, ' I deliver you this cane in token of my sense of your faithful services, and of my committing to you all the power I have upon earth,' and then embraced him. He also called for Mr. James Fraser, and said, ' My dear James, I am going to heaven; but you must continue to crawl a little longer in this evil world.' And, taking leave of both, he delivered his hat, wig, and clothes, to Mr. William Fraser, desiring him to see that the executioner did not touch them. He ordered his cap to be put on, and, unloosing his neckcloth and the collar of his shirt, kneeled down at the block, and pulled the cloth which was to receive his head close to him.

But, being placed too near the block, the executioner desired him to remove a little further back, which, with the warder's assistance, was immediately done; and, his neck being properly placed, he told the executioner he would say a short prayer, and then give the signal by dropping his handkerchief. In this posture he remained about half a minute, and then, throwing his handkerchief on the floor, the executioner at one blow cut off his head, which was received in the cloth,

and, together with his body, put into the coffin, and carried in a hearse back to the Tower, where it remained till four o'clock, and was then removed by an undertaker, in order to be sent to Scotland, and deposited in his own tomb in the church of Kirkill; but leave not being given, as was expected, it was again brought back to the Tower, and interred near the bodies of the other lords.

His lordship professed himself a papist, and, at his request, was attended by Mr. Baker, belonging to the Sardinian ambassador; and though he insisted much on the services he had done the present royal family, in 1715, yet he declared, but a few days before his death, that he had been concerned in all the schemes formed for restoring the house of Stuart since he was fifteen years old.

This nobleman's intellectual powers seem to have been considerable, and his learning extensive: he spoke Latin, French, and English, fluently, and other modern languages intelligibly. He studied at Aberdeen, and disputed his philosophy in Greek; and, though he was educated a protestant, yet, after three years' study of divinity and controversy, he turned papist.

He maintained an appearance of that facetious disposition, for which he was remarkable, to the last; and seems to have taken great pains to quit the stage, not only with decency, but with that dignity which is thought to distinguish the good conscience and the noble mind.

But it may be remarked, on this

* These ejaculations being told to a gentleman, he replied instantly, to the first,

' With justice may Lovat this adage apply,
For the good of their country ALL criminals die.'

To the second—

' Thine alone is the honour of all thou hast done;
Such father no honour transmits to a son.'

occasion, that as dying is an event of infinite moment, and its issue at best uncertain, nothing can be more incongruous and absurd than to treat it with levity, negligence, or presumption.

As the review of a life in which virtue has been an active, growing, and governing principle, can alone enable human nature to meet its dissolution with a rational fortitude, and render a serene and cheerful deportment in the last awful moments beautiful and becoming;—so an air of intrepidity, and a forced pleasantness, at the hour of death, in a person whose life has been remarkable for the most daring and flagitious enormities, instead of reflecting any new honour upon him, renders him yet more odious and contemptible, as such a conduct can proceed only from insolence, ignorance, or insensibility.

Let us not, therefore, be deceived by specious appearances, or dazzled with a false lustre. Let us not judge of the man, or the cause in which he dies, by the manner of his dying; but rather censure or approve his dying behaviour, by comparing it with the general tenor of his life; and then only yield our approbation to the appearances of fortitude, serenity, and cheerfulness, when the individual's moral conduct seems to afford such a prospect of eternity as may inspire him with that hope of heaven which is consistent with knowledge, reason, and humility.

We have already observed that Lord Lovat was an extraordinary man;—he was truly so in every meaning of the word; and some further particulars, therefore, of such a character, carefully gleaned from the publications of the time in which he suffered, cannot prove unacceptable to our readers.

*His person was very large; and
notly added to his unwieldy*

appearance by wearing a number of garments, one over the other, like a Dutchman. He was tall, walked very upright, (considering his great age,) and was tolerably well shaped; he had a large mouth, short nose, eyes very much contracted and down-looking, and a very small forehead, almost all covered with a large periwig; this gave him a grim aspect, but, upon addressing any one, he put on a smiling countenance; he was near-sighted, and affected to be much more so than he really was; he was naturally of a robust constitution and a strong body, hardened by fatigue, inured to hunger and thirst, heat and cold, and improved by exercise; but his long confinement in the Bastille had greatly impaired him; however, he still preserved a degree of health and vigour very uncommon at so advanced an age. He was a man of some learning, and great parts. His experience, and attention to political matters, had made him acquainted with men as well as books; he was polite, affable, and agreeable in conversation; and so great a master of flattery and dissimulation, that he generally gained the good will, if not the esteem, of those he conversed with, however prejudiced they might have been against him. His knowledge of the history and genealogy of the great families in Scotland contributed not a little to this; for there was no person in that country but he would make out to be a relation or ally of some noble or ancient family. In this traditional history he paid little regard to truth, provided he could give his anecdotes an air of probability. He seemed to entertain his guests with the utmost cheerfulness and hospitality; but, being sordidly avaricious, he grumbled privately at the least expense, and though, to their faces, he caressed them, yet

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no sooner had they turned their backs than he cursed them for the trouble and expense they had put him to. He was ambitious and proud; but, when it served his turn, mean and fawning. He was generally subtle, but sometimes unguarded in his speeches and actions, and that even in matters of great concern, by which means he had frequently involved himself in dangers and difficulties; but he was very fertile in expedients, and had almost always extricated himself out of such scrapes. His restless and active disposition drew him into snares; but a ready invention, and a bold and speedy execution, helped him out of them. He was much addicted to enthusiasm and superstitious notions, by which he was greatly governed in many cases. In business he was unconscionable; and avowed that his own profit or pleasure had always been the rule of his actions: this had led him to violence, rapes, cruelty, revenge, treachery, and every infamous practice, when it suited his purpose; this had made him put himself into all shapes and appearances, and therefore rendered him detested and despised by all good men, dreaded by some, and scorned and derided by others. He was naturally brave and resolute; and though fearful as to invisible powers, and, as to his health, and the lesser accidents of life, scrupulous to pusillanimity, yet in imminent danger he was undaunted. He was amorous; but for many years past had been very cautious in respect of women of rank, being sensible that intrigues of that sort are often attended with disagreeable consequences: he therefore made his addresses to the lowest and meanest of the female sex; and by that means tasted all the sweets of love

without any alloy; besides which, his absolute sway over them saved him the trouble of a long courtship. In short, he was a cruel master, an imperious husband, a tyrannical parent, a treacherous friend, and an arbitrary chief.

Just before he came out of the Tower, a scaffolding near the Ship alchouse, Barking Alley, built from that house in many storics, with near one thousand persons on it, suddenly fell down, by which eight or ten were killed on the spot, and numbers had their arms, ribs, and legs broken. Ten more died of their wounds the next day in the London Infirmary and St. Thomas's Hospital; among whom were the carpenter that erected the scaffold, and his wife, who were selling liquor to the populace underneath it at the time it fell. Thus was this man, whose life had been a scene of tyranny and perfidious duplicity, the occasion of injuring many others almost in the moment of his death.

Lord Lovat was executed on the 9th of April, 1747.

Mr. Boswell tells us that Dr. Johnson used to repeat with great energy the following verses on Lord Lovat's execution, which first appeared in the 'Gentleman's Magazine;' but there is no authority to say they were the doctor's own.

'Pitied by gentle minds, Kilmarnock died;
The brave, Balmerino, were on thy side;
Ratcliffe, unhappy in his crimes of youth,
Steady in what he still mistook for truth,
Beheld his death so decently unmov'd,
The soft lamented, and the brave approv'd.
But Lovat's end indifferently we view,
True to no king, to no religion true:
No fair forgets the ruin he has done;
No child laments the tyrant of his son;
No Tory pities, thinking what he was;
No Whig compassions, for he left the cause;
The brave regret not, for he was not brave;
The honest mourn not, knowing him a
knave.'



Dawson's last Interview with his betrothed Bride.

**FRANCIS TOWNLEY, JOHN BARWICK, JAMES DAWSON,
AND OTHERS,**

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

FRANCIS TOWNLEY was indicted at the sessions held at St. Margaret's Hall, June 23, 1746, for the trial of the insurgents, for the part he had acted in the rebellion. His counsel insisted that he was not a subject of Great Britain, being an officer in the service of the French king; but this the judges observed was a circumstance against him, as he had quitted his native country, and engaged in the French service, without the consent of his lawful sovereign. Some other motions, equally frivolous, being overruled, he was capitally convicted, and adjudged to die.

This gentleman, the rebel colonel of the Pretender's Manchester regiment, was the son of — *Townley, Esq. of Townley Hall, Lancashire, who was tried for*

the share he had in the rebellion of 1715, but acquitted.

Young Townley, having been educated in the rigid principles of popery, went abroad early in life, and, entering into the service of France, distinguished himself in the military line, particularly at the siege of Philipsburgh.

Coming to England in 1742, he associated chiefly with those of the Catholic religion; and it was thought that he induced many of them to take an active part in the rebellion. When the Pretender came to Manchester, Townley offered his services; and, being accepted, he was commissioned to raise a regiment, which he soon completed; but, being made prisoner at Carlisle, he was conducted to London.

After conviction he behaved in the most reserved manner, scarcely speaking to any one except his brethren in misfortune.

John Barwick, formerly a linen-draper of Manchester, but afterwards a lieutenant, was the next person tried and convicted. This man was distinguished by living elegantly in prison; and it was remarked that the prisoners in general were amply supplied with the necessaries of life by the bounty of their friends. It is asserted that they expected to be treated as prisoners of war; but it is not credible that they could be so totally ignorant of the law of nations, or of their duty as subjects.

James Dawson was also tried at the same sessions. He was a native of Lancashire, of genteel parents, and liberally educated at St. John's College in Cambridge. After leaving the University he repaired to Manchester, where the Pretender gave him a captain's commission. Dawson had paid his addresses to a young lady, to whom he was to have been married immediately after his enlargement, if the solicitations that were made for his pardon had been attended with the desired effect.

The circumstance of his love, and the melancholy that was produced by his death, are so admirably treated in the following ballad of Shenstone, that Dawson's story will probably be remembered and regretted when that of the rest of the rebels will be forgotten. A man must have lost all feeling who can read this beautiful ballad, equally remarkable for its elegance, its simplicity, and its truth, and remain unaffected:

JEMMY DAWSON: A BALLAD.

'Come listen to my mournful tale,
Ye tender hearts and lovers dear;
Nor will you scorn to heave a sigh.
Nor will you blush to shed a tear.

And thou, dear Kitty, peerless maid,
Do thou a pensive ear incline,
For thou canst weep at ev'ry woe,
And pity ev'ry plaint, but mine.

Young Dawson was a gallant youth,
A brighter never trod the plain;
And well he lov'd one charming maid,
And dearly was he lov'd again.

One tender maid she lov'd him dear,
Of gentle blood the damsel came,
And faultless was her beauteous form,
And spotless was her virgin fame.

But, curse on party's hateful strife,
That led the faithful youth astray!
The day the rebel clans appear'd—
(Oh, had he never seen that day!)

Their colours and their sash he wore,
And in their fatal dress was found;
And now he must that death endure
Which gives the brave the keenest wound.

How pale was then his true-love's cheek
When Jemmy's sentence reach'd her ear!
For never yet did Alpine snows
So pale, nor yet so chill, appear.

"Yet, might sweet mercy find a place,
And bring relief to Jemmy's woes,
O George! without a prayer for thee
My orisons should never close.

"The gracious prince that gives him life
Would crown a never-dying flame;
And ev'ry tender babe I bore
Should learn to lisp the giver's name.

"But tho', dear youth, thou shouldst be
dragged
To yonder ignominious tree,
Thou shalt not want a faithful friend
To share thy bitter fate with thee."

O, then her mourning-coach was call'd;
The sledge mov'd slowly on before;—
Tho' borne in a triumphal car,
She had not lov'd her fav'rite more.

She follow'd him, prepared to view
The terrible behests of law;
And the last scene of Jemmy's woes
With calm and steadfast eyes she saw.

Distorted was that blooming face
Which she had fondly loved so long;
And stifed was that tuneful breath
Which in her prison had sweetly sung;—

And sever'd was that beauteous neck
Round which her arms had fondly clos'd;
And mangled was that beauteous breast
On which her love-sick head repos'd;—

And ravish'd was that constant heart
She did to ev'ry heart prefer;
For, tho' it could his king forget,
'Twas true and loyal still to her.

Amidst these unrelenting flames
 She bore this constant heart to see;
 But, when 'twas mould'ed into dust,
 "Yet, yet," she cried, "I'll follow thee!"

"My death, my death, can only show
 The pure and lasting love I bore:
 Accept, O, Heav'n! of woes like ours,
 And let us—let us weep no more."

The dismal scene was o'er and past,
 The lover's mournful hearse retir'd;
 The maid drew back her languid head,
 And, sighing forth his name, expir'd!

Tho' justice ever must prevail,
 The tear my Kitty sheds is due;
 For seldom shall we hear a tale
 So sad, so tender, and so true."

Another of the parties tried on this occasion was George Fletcher, who had been a linen-draper at Stratford, near Manchester, managing the business for his mother, who, on her knees, had persuaded him not to engage with the rebels, offering him one thousand pounds on the condition that he would not embark in so desperate an enterprise; but he was deaf to her entreaties, and so ambitious of serving the Pretender, that he actually gave his secretary, Mr. Murray, fifty pounds for a captain's commission. Fletcher having induced one Maddox to enlist, the man would have deserted, but he produced a handful of gold, and said he should not want money if he would fight for the Pretender; which induced Maddox to keep his station.

Thomas Syddall was a barber at Manchester, and had supported a wife and five children in a creditable way, till the rebel troops arrived at that place. His father had been hanged at Manchester for his concern in the rebellion of 1715, and his head had remained on the Market Cross till the year 1745, when it was taken down on the arrival of the Pretender. Syddall, who was a rigid Roman Catholic, now vowed revenge against the *Yestants*, with a view to accomplish which he obtained an ensign's

commission from the Pretender's secretary.

The attachment of this man to the Pretender was so extraordinary, that, almost in the last moment of his existence, he prayed that his children might be ready to assert the same at the hazard of their lives.

Thomas Chadwick was tried immediately after Syddall. He was a tallow-chandler, but had not long followed business; for, associating with persons of Jacobinical principles, he accepted the commission of lieutenant in the Pretender's service; and he was tried for, and convicted of, acting in that capacity. Chadwick appeared to have great resolution; and told his friends that death, in any shape, had no terrors for him: but his courage forsook him, and he seemed greatly agitated, on taking leave of his father the night before his execution.

Thomas Deacon, the next person tried, was the son of a physician of eminence. His principles of loyalty being tainted by associating with Jacobites, he became zealous in the cause of the Pretender; and his zeal was rewarded by the commission of lieutenant-colonel in the Manchester regiment.

Mr. Deacon had declared his resolution of joining the rebels as soon as he heard they were in arms in Scotland; and when they arrived at Manchester he became one of their number. His two brothers likewise embarked in this fatal business; and one of them was sentenced to die with him: but, being only sixteen years of age, he was happy enough to obtain a pardon.

The next convict on this melancholy occasion was Andrew Blood, who had been steward to a gentleman in Yorkshire, of which county he was a native, and descended from a respectable family.

Quitting his service, he went to

Manchester to join the rebels, and received a captain's commission. He pleaded guilty to the indictment, and received sentence with the utmost composure and resignation. The gentleman whom he had served as steward exerted his utmost influence to procure a pardon for him; but the culprit, being told all endeavours were fruitless, expressed the utmost unconcern, and said he was willing to become a martyr for the cause he had abetted; adding, that he had prepared for death, having entertained no hope of pardon.

The last person brought to trial and conviction at these sessions was David Morgan, Esq. of Monmouthshire. This man had been sent by his father to study law in the Temple, and practised a short time as a counsellor; but, his father dying, he went to reside on his estate in the country. He was distinguished by the haughtiness of his temper, and a disposition to quarrel with his neighbours and servants.

Having met the rebels at Manchester, he advised the Pretender to proceed immediately to London, assuring him that the whole force in arms to oppose him did not exceed three thousand men. Had this advice been attended to, the rebellion might have been crushed much sooner than it was; for no doubt the people would have arisen as one man, to oppose the progress of the lawless insurgents.

The Pretender having granted Morgan a warrant to search the houses in Manchester for arms, he did this in the strictest manner, and threatened with the most exemplary punishment all those who opposed him.

A colonel's commission was offered him; but he declined the acceptance of it, proposing rather to give his advice than his personal as-

sistance. When the rebels marched to Derby, he quitted them; but, being taken into custody, he was lodged in Chester Castle, and thence conveyed to London; and, conviction following commitment, he was sentenced to die with his associates.

After the sentence of the law was passed, the convicts declared that they had acted according to the dictates of their consciences, and would again act the same parts if they were put to trial. When the keeper informed them that the following day was ordered for their execution, they expressed a resignation to the will of God, embraced each other, and took an affectionate leave of their friends.

On the following morning they breakfasted together, and, having conversed till near eleven o'clock, were conveyed from the New Gaol, Southwark, to Kennington Common, on three sledges. The gibbet was surrounded by a party of the guards, and a block and a pile of faggots were placed near it. The faggots were set on fire while the proper officers were removing the malefactors from the sledges.

After near an hour employed in acts of devotion, these unhappy men, having delivered to the sheriffs some papers, expressive of their political sentiments, underwent the sentence of the law. They had not hung above five minutes when Townley was cut down, being yet alive; and his body being placed on the block, the executioner chopped off his head with a cleaver. His heart and bowels were then taken out, and thrown into the fire; and the other parties being separately treated in the same manner, the executioner cried out, 'God save King George!'

The bodies were quartered, and delivered to the keeper of the New

Count, who shared them: the heads of some of the parties were sent to Carlisle and Manchester, where they were exposed; but those of Townley and Fletcher were fixed on

Townley-hill, and, after remaining some weeks, were left alone.

These victims to their country suffered at Kenningham Common, on the 22d of June, 1746.

DONALD M'DONALD, JAMES NICHOLSON, AND WALTER OGILVIE,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

DONALD M'DONALD had joined the Pretender soon after he came to Scotland, and had received a captain's commission. He was educated by an uncle, who told him he would furnish the glory of his ancestors, who had been warmly attached to the same cause; if he failed to act with courage.

M'Donald was ever foremost where danger presented itself: he was greatly distinguished at the battle of Preston-Pans, and joined with Lord Nairn in taking possession of Perth—services that greatly recommended him to the Pretender.

This man was exceedingly anxious to learn the art of war, and made himself of so much consequence as to be intrusted with the command of two thousand men. The Duke of Perth having ordered two men, who refused to enlist, to be shot, M'Donald complained to his uncle, who had likewise a command in the rebel army, of the injustice of this proceeding; but the uncle ordered the nephew into custody, told him that he himself should be shot on the following day, and actually informed the Pretender of what had passed; but M'Donald was only reprimanded, and dismissed on promise of more cautious behaviour in future.

After his commitment to prison, M'Donald frequently wished that he had been shot. Being advised, however, that it would be fruitless to have rather hear a tune of sweet bagpipes that used to

play before the army. He often told the keepers of the prison that "if they would knock off his fetters, and give him a pair of bagpipes, he would treat them with a Highland dance."

He said he thought the Pretender's service very honourable when he first engaged in it, which he would never have done if he had supposed him so ill provided for the expedition. He likewise expressed the utmost resentment against the French king for not supplying them with succours.

James Nicholson had been educated in principles averse to those of the abettors of the house of Stuart, but had been fatally prevailed on to change his political sentiments by some Jacobites who frequented a coffee-house which he had kept at Leith with great reputation for a considerable time.

Having accepted a lieutenant's commission on the arrival of the rebels at Edinburgh, he proceeded with them as far as Derby; but when they returned to Carlisle he was taken into custody, and sent with the other prisoners to London.

After conviction he was visited by his wife and children, which afforded a scene of distress that is not to be described. He now lamented the miseries that he had brought on his family; but his penitence came too late!

The county of Bamff, in Scotland, gave birth to Walter Ogilvie, who was brought up a protestant, and

taught the duty of allegiance to the illustrious house of Brunswick ; but some of his associates having contaminated his principles, he went to Lord Lewis Gordon, and joined the division of rebels under his command.

Ogilvie's father represented to him the rashness and impracticability of the scheme in which he was about to engage ; but the young man said he was persuaded of its justice, and that the Pretender had a right to his best services.

After conviction these unfortunate men behaved for some time with great indifference ; but, on the nearer approach of death, they grew more serious. On the morning of their execution, having been visited by some friends, they were drawn on a sledge to Kennington Common, where they were turned off as soon as their devotions were ended ; and, after hanging about a quarter of an hour, they were cut down, their heads cut off, their

bowels taken out and burnt, and their bodies conveyed to the New Gaol, Southwark ; and on the following day they were interred in one grave, in the new burial-ground belonging to the parish of Bloomsbury.

These unfortunate men suffered at Kennington Common on the 22d of August, 1746.

Alexander M'Gruther, a lieutenant in the Duke of Perth's regiment, and who had been very active among the rebels, was condemned with the three parties above mentioned ; but he had the happiness to obtain a reprieve through the interest of his friends.

Many other of the prisoners tried and convicted in Surrey were reprieved, as proper objects of the royal mercy ; but five of them suffered at Kennington Common on the 28th of the month above mentioned ; one of whom at the place of execution drank a health to the Pretender.

THOMAS CAPPOCK,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

SUCH anecdotes of this enthusiastic rebel as we have been able to glean from the public prints of the year 1745, we have put together, in order to allot to this would-be Right Reverend Father in God a memoir independent of the treacherous group among whom he swung on the gallows.

On the 12th of August, 1746, the Lord Chief Baron Parker, Baron Clarke, and Judges Burnett and Dennison, arrived at Carlisle, and, by virtue of a special commission for that purpose to them directed, convened a Court for the purpose of trying the rebels found in arms on the surrender of Carlisle. On the 14th the Scotch prisoners were arraigned, but the witnesses in be-

half of the crown (also Scotchmen) refused to swear in the form prescribed by the laws of England. The judges therefore deferred the trial, in order to consult on this contumacy ; but next morning allowed them to take the oath after the Scotch form. Bills of indictment were found against all the officers, as well as Bishop Cappock ; but the common men, amounting to near four hundred, were ordered to cast lots ; and of every twenty nine-teen were to be transported, and the twentieth put upon his trial for high treason. Some few refused this lenity, depending upon so deceiving the evidence as not to recognise them : for this purpose they cut off each other's hair, changed

their clothing, and, by every other method which they could devise, disguised themselves.

When the grand jury presented true bills, the whole of those indicted were brought to the bar, whom the Lord Chief Baron told that the Court desired them to choose what counsel they pleased, with a solicitor;—that the Court had given orders to their clerk to make out subpoenas for them gratis, and by virtue thereof to bring forward such witnesses as they imagined could in any manner tend to their exculpation.

In order to give them every chance for this end, the judges adjourned the Court, and proceeded to the city of York, where many more rebels were in confinement, and where bills were found against seventy-nine of them. It was near a month before they returned to Carlisle. On the 9th of September a considerable number were arraigned at the bar of the Court of the latter city, of whom fifty-nine pleaded not guilty. On the 10th forty-five more were brought up, and all pleaded not guilty, except three, one of whom was a desperate turbulent fellow, a rebel captain, named Robert Taylor, who had repeatedly vaunted that he would take Edinburgh Castle in three days. The next day twelve more were arraigned, and among them was the more immediate subject of the present page—the rebellious bishop.

He appeared at the bar in his gown and cassock, assumed much confidence, and seemed to entertain no idea that he could be convicted. He made a speech to the Court and jury, which chiefly went to show that he joined the rebels by com-

pulsion alone. He called his father, and one Mary Humphries, to substantiate this assertion; but their evidence fell far short of so doing. A witness, however, proved that the prisoner had made an attempt to escape from the rebels. On the other side it was proved that he voluntarily went with the rebels from Manchester to Derby, and thence back to Carlisle. It further appeared that wherever the rebels went he read public prayers for King James, and Charles, Prince of Wales, Regent of England. At Carlisle he appeared in character of the Church Militant, with a hanger by his side, a plaid sash and white cockade, acting also as a quartermaster. Another witness proved that this fighting bishop told him of his engaging two of the king's soldiers, and taking them both prisoners; and he also vaunted that his prince had offered battle to the Duke of Cumberland, who ran away; and that they (the rebels) returned to Scotland only to join Lord George Drummond, who had landed with many thousand French to assist their cause. His evidence, Miss Humphries, was shown a letter, which she acknowledged to be the handwriting of the bishop, wherein he had the effrontery to tell the barefaced falsehood of the Duke of Cumberland ordering him to be kept on half a pound of bread per day, and nasty water, because he advised to give battle to him at Stanwix, and protested against the surrender of Carlisle.

The jury, notwithstanding the confidence apparent in the prisoner through his whole trial, which lasted six hours, in two minutes found him guilty.*

* Another furious nonjuring priest was taken among the rebels, of the name of Robert Lyon. This turbulent rebel, under the gallows at Penrith, read a long and infamous libel against the king and government of England: and the sheriff permitted him to 'range in a similar strain near half an hour, with the halter round his neck.

The priest, it seems, still did not abandon himself to his fate; for in a few days it was discovered that he and six more condemned rebels had sawed off their irons, and were about to attempt an escape. The instrument with which they effected this was prepared for the purpose by a new and curious method, and has been thus described:—‘They laid a silk handkerchief singly over the mouth of a drinking-glass, and tied it hard at the bottom; then struck the edge of a case-knife on the brim of the glass, (thus covered, to prevent noise,) till it became a saw. With such knives they cut their irons, and, when the teeth were blunt, they had recourse to the glass to renew them. A knife will not cut a handkerchief when struck upon it in this manner.’

Cappock, with nine other convicted rebels, was hanged at Carlisle, on the 18th of October, 1746.

In consequence of these convictions many estates were forfeited to the crown; but King George II. ordered them to be sold, and the whole produce, above twenty years’ purchase, to be given to the orphans of those who had forfeited them. The rest was employed in establishing schools in the Highlands, and instructing the natives in useful arts.

To enumerate the different trials of the rebels convicted and executed would nearly fill one of our volumes; and, having given the outlines of the treason in which they were all implicated, a recapitulation of the evidence, to the same tenor, is unnecessary. Let it therefore suffice to say, that numbers were executed in different parts of England, and many of their heads placed on public buildings; and others transported to America.

Yet we think our readers would be gratified by a knowledge of the escape of the leading man in this

desperate insurrection—the young Pretender; and to this end we have selected the following interesting and genuine account:

‘The decisive engagement of Culloden was fought on the 16th of April, 1746, in which the Pretender had his horse shot under him by one of the troopers in the king’s service, as he was endeavoring to rally his people. After his forces were entirely defeated, he retired to the house of a factor of Lord Lovat, about ten miles from Inverness, where, meeting with that lord, he stayed supper. After supper was over he set out for Fort Augustus, and pursued his journey next day to Invergarry, where he proposed to have dined; but, finding no victuals, he set a boy to fishing, who caught two salmon, on which he made a dinner, and continued waiting there for some of his troops, who had promised to rendezvous at that place; but, being disappointed, he resolved to proceed to Lochharciage.

‘He arrived there on the 18th, at two in the morning, and went to sleep, which he had not done before for five days and nights. He remained there till five o’clock in the afternoon, in hopes of obtaining some intelligence; but gaining none, he set out from thence on foot, and travelled to the Glen of Morar, where he arrived the 19th, at four in the morning. He set out about noon the same day for Arrashag, where he arrived about four in the afternoon. He remained here until joined by Captain O’Neil on the 27th, who informed him that there were no hopes of drawing his troops together again in a body, upon which he resolved to go to Stornaway, in order to hire a ship to sail for France.

‘The person employed for this purpose was one Donald M’Leod,

who had an interest there. On the 28th the Chevalier went on board an eight-oared boat, in company with Sullivan and O'Neil, ordering the people who belonged to the boat to make the best haste they could to Stornway. The night proving very tempestuous, they all begged of him to go back, which he would not do; but, to keep up the spirits of the people, he sang them a Highland song. The weather growing worse and worse, about seven in the morning of the 29th they were driven on shore on a point of land called Rushness, in the island of Benbicula, where, when they got on shore, the Pretender helped to make a fire to warm the crew, who were almost starved to death with cold. On the 30th, at six in the evening, they set sail again for Stornway, but, meeting with another storm, were obliged to put into the island of Scalpa, in the Harris, where they all went on shore to a farmer's house, passing for merchants that were shipwrecked in their voyage to the Orkneys: the Pretender and Sullivan going by the name of Sinclair, the latter passing for the father, and the former his son.

'They thought proper to send from thence to Donald M'Leod at Stornway, with instructions to freight a ship for the Orkneys. On the 3d of May they received a message from him that a ship was ready. On the 4th they set out for that place, where they arrived on the 5th about noon, and, meeting with Donald M'Leod, they found that he had got into company, and told a friend of his for whom he had hired the ship; upon which there were two hundred people in arms at Stornway, upon a report that the Pretender was landed with five hundred men, and was coming to burn the town; so that they were obliged to lie all night upon the

moor, with no other refreshment than biscuit and brandy.

'On the 6th they resolved to go in the eight-oared boat to the Orkneys; but the crew refused to venture, so that they were obliged to steer south along the coast-side, where they met with two English ships; and this compelled them to put into a desert island, where they remained till the 10th, without any provision but some salt fish they found upon the place. About ten in the morning of that day they embarked for the Harris, and at break of day on the 11th they were chased by an English vessel, but made their escape among the rocks. About four in the afternoon they arrived on the island of Benbicula, where they staid till the 14th, and then set out for the mountain of Currada, in South Uist, where they staid till the militia of the isle of Sky came to the island of Irasky, and then sailed for the island of Uia, where they remained three nights, till, having intelligence that the militia were coming towards Benbicula, they immediately got into their boat, and sailed for Lochbusdale; but, being met by some ships of war, they were obliged to return to Lochgarnart, and at night sailed for Lochbusdale; upon arriving at which place they staid eight days on a rock, making a tent of the sail of the boat.

'They found themselves here in a most dreadful situation; for, having intelligence that Captain Scott had landed at Kilbride, the company was obliged to separate, and the Pretender and O'Neil went to the mountains, where they remained all night, and soon after were informed that General Campbell was at Bernary; so that now they had forces very near, on both sides of them, and were absolutely at a loss which way to move. In

their road they met with a young lady, one Miss M'Donald, to whom Captain O'Neil proposed assisting the Pretender to make his escape, which at first she refused; but, upon his offering to put on women's clothes, she consented, and desired them to go to the mountain of Currada till she sent for them, where they accordingly stayed two days; but, hearing nothing from the young lady, the Pretender concluded she would not keep her word, and therefore resolved to send Captain O'Neil to General Campbell, to let him know he was willing to surrender to him; but about five o'clock in the evening a message came from the young lady, desiring them to meet her at Rushness. Being afraid to pass by the Ford, because of the militia, they luckily found a boat, which carried them to the other side of Uia, where they remained part of the next day, afraid of being seen by the country people. In the evening they set out for Rushness, and arrived there at twelve at night; but not finding the young lady, and being alarmed by a boat full of militia, they were obliged to retire two miles back, where the Pretender remained on a moor till O'Neil went to the young lady, and prevailed upon her to come to the place appointed at night-fall of the next day. About an hour after they had an account of General Campbell's arrival at Benbica, which obliged them to move to another part of the island, where, as the day broke, they discovered four sail close on the shore, making directly up to the place where they were; so that there was nothing left for them to do but to throw themselves among the heath. When the wherries were gone, they resolved to go to Clanronald's house; but, when they were within a mile of it, they heard General Campbell

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was there, which forced them to retreat again.

'The young Pretender having at length, with the assistance of Captain O'Neil, found Miss M'Donald in a cottage near the place appointed, it was there determined that he should put on women's clothes, and pass for her waiting-maid. This being done, he took leave of Sullivan and O'Neil with great regret, who departed to shift for themselves, leaving him and his new mistress in the cottage, where they continued some days, during which she cured him of the itch. Upon intelligence that General Campbell was gone further into the country, they removed to her cousin's, and spent the night in preparing for their departure to the Isle of Sky: accordingly they set out the next morning, with only one man-servant, named M'Lean, and two rowers. During their voyage they were pursued by a small vessel; but a thick fog rising, they arrived safe at midnight in that island, and landed at the foot of a rock, where the lady and her maid waited while her man M'Lean went to see if Sir Alexander M'Donald was at home. M'Lean found his way thither, but lost it returning back: his mistress and her maid, after in vain expecting him the whole night, were obliged in the morning to leave the rock, and go in the boat up the creek to some distance, to avoid the militia which guarded the coast.

'They went on shore again about ten o'clock, and, attended by the rowers, inquired the way to Sir Alexander's. When they had gone about two miles, they met M'Lean: he told his lady that Sir Alexander was with the Duke of Cumberland, but his lady was at home, and would do them all the service she could; whereupon they discharged their boat, and went directly to the

house, where they remained two days, being always in her ladyship's chamber, except at nights, to prevent a discovery. But a party of the M'Leods having intelligence that some strangers were arrived at Sir Alexander's, and knowing his lady was well affected to the Pretender, came thither; and, demanding to see the new-comers, were introduced to Miss's chamber, where she sat with her new maid. The latter, hearing the militia was at the door, had the presence of mind to get up and open it, which occasioned his being the less taken notice of; and, after they had narrowly searched the closets, they withdrew.

'The inquiry, however, alarmed the young lady, and the next day she sent her apparent maid to a steward of Sir Alexander's: but, hearing that his being in the island was known, he removed to Macdonald's at Kingsborough, ten miles distant, where he remained but one day; for, on receiving intelligence that it was rumoured he was disguised in a woman's habit, M'Donald furnished him with a suit of his own clothes, and he went in a boat to Macleod's, at Raza; but, having no prospect of escaping thence to France, he returned back to the Isle of Sky, being thirty miles, with no attendant but a ferryman, whom he would not suffer to carry his wallet, M'Leod assuring him that the elder Laird of M'Innon would there render him all the service in his power.

'When he arrived, not knowing the way to M'Innon's house, he chanced to inquire of a gentleman whom he met on the top of a moun-

tain. This gentleman, having seen him before, thought he recollected his face, and asked him if he was not the P.—This greatly surprised him; but seeing the gentleman had only one person, a servant, with him, he answered "I am," at the same time putting himself in a posture of defence: but this person immediately discovered himself to be his good friend, Captain M'Leod, and conducted him to M'Innon's. The old man instantly knew him, but advised him immediately to go to Lochabar; and he accordingly set sail in a vessel which M'Innon procured for that purpose.

'After remaining seven days in the Glens of Morar, he received advice that M'Donald of Lochgarrie expected him in Lochabar, where he had one hundred resolute Highlanders in arms: upon this he went over the great hill of Morar, in a tattered Highland habit, and was joyfully received by M'Donald at the head of his men.

'With this party he roved from place to place, till, finding he could no longer remain in Lochabar, he removed to Badenoch; but, being harassed by the king's troops, and losing daily some of his men in skirmishing, they dispersed; and the Pretender, with Lochiel of Barrisdale, and some others, skulked about in Moidart. Here they received advice that two French privateers were at anchor in Lochna-naugh, in Moidart, in one of which, called *L'Heureux* (*The Happy*), he embarked with twenty-three gentlemen, and one hundred and seven common men, and soon after arrived safely in France.'

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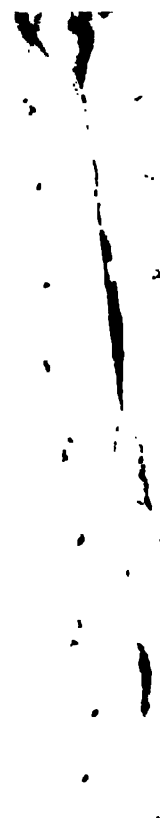
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